



Report to the
Illinois General Assembly
Pursuant to
P.A. 95-0268



From the Plastic Bag
Recycling Task Force
May, 2010

*Prepared by
The Solid Waste Agency of
Lake County, Illinois*

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The Honorable Ms. Sandy Cole, State Representative 62nd District
The Honorable Ms. Ann Maine, County Board Member 21st District
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Section 1 Introduction

1.1 How Plastic Bags Became an Issue

Interest in plastic bag recycling in Lake County arose from concerns brought to the attention of the Solid Waste Agency of Lake County (SWALCO) Board of Directors by a Lake County Health Department landfill inspector. The Health Department official informed the Board that excessive blowing of plastic bags and wrap was a common problem encountered at one of the landfills in the County. These plastic bags often blew across open land getting caught in trees and tall grasses, and landfill staff was routinely dispatched to clean up the blown litter from the adjacent roadsides and open areas. The Health Department official asked the SWALCO Board if there was something that could be done to reduce this litter problem.

The SWALCO Board directed staff to examine the issue and develop a solution to both reduce the amount of plastic grocery bags disposed of and improve the availability to recycle them within Lake County. Staff prepared a report addressing the topic of plastic bag usage within Lake County and the availability of recycling options and presented the report to the SWALCO Board of Directors at its August 2006 meeting (see Appendix 1 for a copy of the report).

After the SWALCO report was presented in August 2006, the Board recommended that staff develop a plan requiring retailers who provide customers with plastic bags to accept and recycle these bags. It was also requested that the retailers offer their customers a choice of paper or plastic bags; and have retailers provide or sell reusable bags. These recommendations were further reinforced through a resolution passed by the SWALCO Board of Directors (see Appendix 2). The Board further directed the SWALCO Legislative Committee to amend the SWALCO Legislative Policy to develop a legislative proposal to require retailers who provide plastic bags to their customers to collect and recycle the plastic bags that are returned to them by their customers.

In 2007, SWALCO addressed the plastic bag recycling matter in its annual legislative agenda calling for a law that would require Illinois retail locations of 10,000 square feet or greater, who provide customers with single-use plastic bags, to provide for the take-back of used plastic bags and film wrap and assure that the collected plastic materials are recycled. Legislation containing these requirements was introduced in the spring session of the 95th Illinois General Assembly. SB 303, sponsored by Senator Terry Link and Representative Kathleen Ryg, contained the SWALCO recommendations. Upon the bill's introduction, various stakeholders became involved in the process which led to the passage of an amended bill (see Appendix 3 for the full text of SB 303 and its subsequent amendments).

1.2 Plastic Bags and Film, Current Generation and Recycling

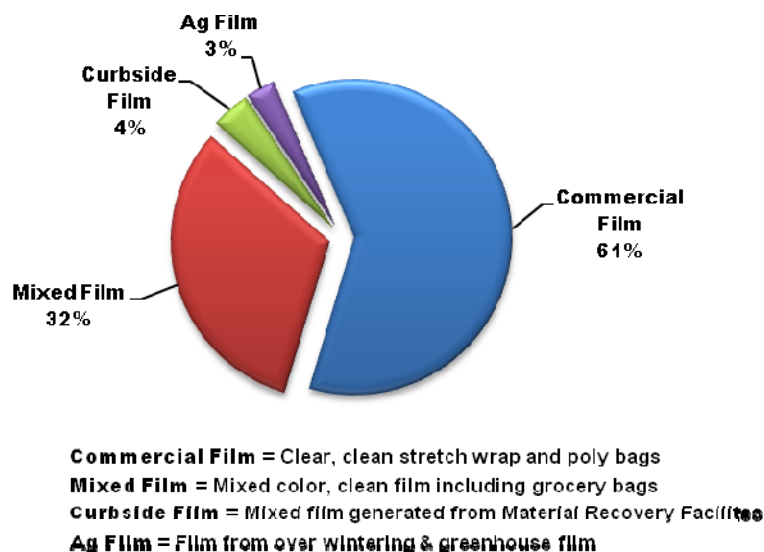
The United States Environmental Protection Agency estimates that approximately four million tons of plastic bags and plastic film wrapping materials are disposed of each year in the United States with less than two percent of these materials being recycled.¹ According to the Food Marketing Institute, the average American makes two trips to the grocery store each week taking away an average of five to ten bags each trip². This calculates out to be between 520 and 1,040 bags per shopper each year. Applying these figures to Lake County's 500,000 adult residents means that locally, between 260 – 520 million plastic grocery bags are being generated yearly.

¹ *Municipal Solid Waste in The United States: 2008 Facts and Figures*, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

² *U.S. Grocery Shopper Trends 2009*, Food Marketing Institute

It is also known that both domestic and export markets exist for various grades of post consumer plastic film including plastic grocery bags. According to the 2008 National Post-Consumer Recycled Plastic Bag & Film Report³, an estimated 832 million pounds of post-consumer plastic film (including plastic bags and product wrap) were recovered in 2008. This volume reflects an upward trend in recovery as demonstrated by a 28 percent increase in plastic film recovery since 2005. The report concludes that an estimated 17 percent of the total recovered post-consumer plastic film is plastic grocery and retail bags. However, this form of plastic film is often commingled with commercial stretch film wrap at retail businesses and distribution facilities making it difficult to discern the exact amount of plastic bags that are recovered. Figure 1.1 illustrates the grades of post-consumer film recovered in 2008.

Figure 1.1 Grades of Film Plastic Recovered in the United States in 2008

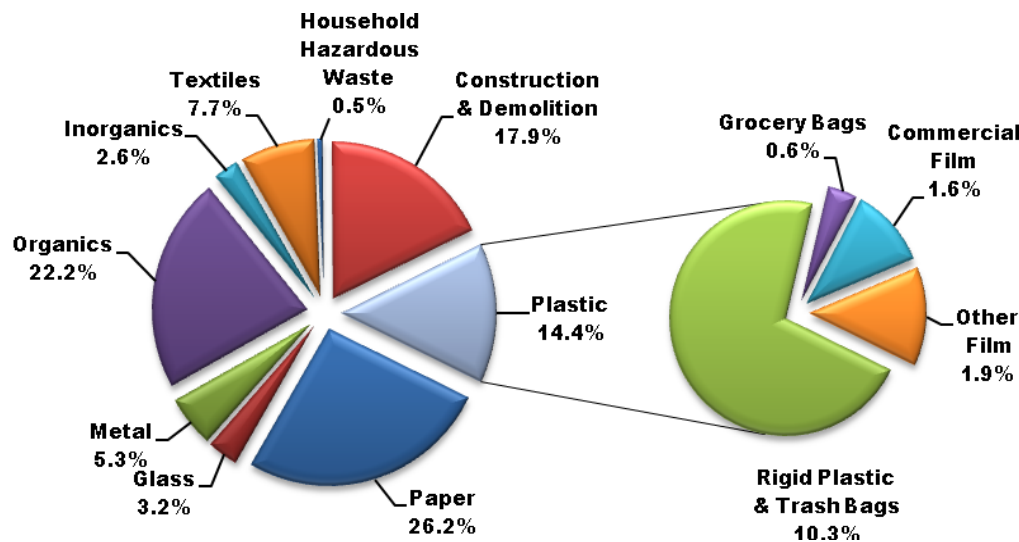


According to the findings of the Illinois Commodity/Waste Generation and Characterization Study⁴, as shown in Figure 1.2, plastic bags and film plastics, excluding trash bags, account for four percent of the waste disposed in Illinois landfills. Reducing the volume of film plastic being disposed of by increased recycling efforts offers a potentially valuable route for preserving landfill space and reducing the litter that is associated with these film plastics entering the waste stream.

³ 2008 National Post-Consumer Recycled Plastic Bag & Film Report, American Chemistry Council

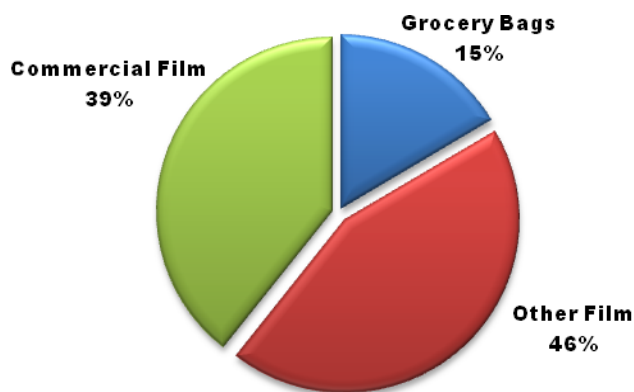
⁴ Illinois Commodity/Waste Generation and Characterization Study commissioned by the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity, contracted to the Illinois Recycling Association and prepared by Camp Dresser & McKee, Inc., May 2009.

Figure 1.2 Composition of Landfilled Illinois Municipal Solid Waste by Material Class



It is also important to note that grocery bags represent only about 15 percent of all plastic film disposed of in Illinois landfills (see Figure 1.3). Recycling other plastic film, in addition to grocery bags, is an important consideration and finding of this report.

Figure 1.3 Distribution of Plastic Film Disposed in Illinois Landfills



1.3 Overview of the Plastic Bag Recycling Act

The Plastic Bag Recycling Act, P.A. 095-0268 (The Act) was signed into law on August 17, 2007 and became effective on January 1, 2008 (see Appendix 4). The Act created the Plastic Bag Recycling Act and the Plastic Bag Recycling Task Force (Task Force) and defined the composition and duties of the Task Force. It required that the Task Force and the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (the Agency) collaborate on a report to be submitted to the Governor and the General Assembly by March 1, 2010 on specified aspects of the pilot program. It established a voluntary plastic bag recycling pilot program for certain retailers in Lake County and required those retailers who participated in the plastic bag recycling pilot program to implement the program as suggested under the Act. The Act defined a "Retailer" as a person engaged in the business of making sales at retail that owns or controls more than 10,000 square feet of retail space in Lake County. The Act will be repealed on June 1, 2010.

1.4 Outline of the Recycling Pilot Program in Lake County

The Act stipulated that within 90 days after the first meeting of the Plastic Bag Recycling Task Force, the Task Force was to promulgate procedures and guidelines implementing a voluntary plastic bag recycling pilot program for retailers in Lake County. Retailers participating in the pilot program and distributing plastic bags to consumers free of charge as part of a purchase at retail were required to:

1. Implement a plastic bag collection program that facilitates the return and recycling of plastic bags distributed to consumers by that retailer; and
2. Provide a clearly marked receptacle for the collection of plastic bags that is in a convenient location for that retailer's consumers; and
3. Arrange for the pick-up, transport, and recycling of plastic bags deposited in the collection receptacles by consumers.

In meeting the pilot program guidelines, retailers could work individually or as part of a group.

1.5 Guidelines of the Task Force

The Act required that within 90 days after the effective date of the Act, that a Task Force be formed and meet at least twice a year, and that the Agency chair the meetings and facilitate the Task Force. The Task Force consisted of one legislator appointed by each of the following: The President of the Senate, the Minority Leader of the Senate, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, and the Minority Leader of the House of Representatives; three representatives of a statewide association exclusively representing retailers; and one representative from each of the following: A plastic film recycler; the Solid Waste Agency of Lake County; the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency; and the Lake County Board. (see Appendix 5 for a complete list of all Task Force Members and copies of meeting agendas).

The Act required that on or before March 1, 2010, the Task Force, in collaboration with the Agency, shall compile and submit a report to the Governor, the President of the Senate, the Minority Leader of the Senate, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, and the Minority Leader of the House of Representatives, discussing, but not limited to, the following topics:

1. Enrollment in the pilot program;
2. Benefits and costs to the environment, retailers and residents of Lake County;
3. Cost-benefit analysis of the pilot program;
4. Any burden suffered as a result of the pilot program; and
5. Any unforeseen transportation issues, liability, or cost for participations in the pilot program.

1.6 Implementation

The Task Force convened for the first time on July 8, 2008 and quickly went to work developing the structure of the Pilot Program. At its following meeting on November 18, 2008 the Task Force finalized the protocol of the Pilot Program. This report describes the Pilot Program initiated by the Task Force in Lake County with the purpose of determining whether plastic bag and film recycling could be sustainable in the form of an "At Store" recovery program. First, this report describes the design of the pilot "At Store" collection program and its subsequent implementation (Sections 2 and 3). Second, it explores the Pilot Program's findings, focusing on the challenges and successes encountered in addition to other things learned along the way (Section 4). Finally, it provides recommendations from the Task Force that may assist in the development of future policy regarding the collection of plastic bags and film within Illinois (Section 5).

Section 2 Design of Pilot Program

2.1 Pilot Program Goal

The Task Force recognized that at-store collection of plastic bags afforded residents the opportunity to recycle their bags as well as many other different types of plastic film wrap – materials that otherwise wouldn't have outlets for recycling. The Task Force also recognized that plastics are a valuable resource that should not be wasted and that various markets exist for plastic film scrap (e.g., carryout bags, toilet paper wrap, newspaper bags, and dry cleaning bags) and those markets can turn scrap plastic into new products. The Task Force agreed that the most efficient way to increase recycling of film plastic bags was to promote and expand upon at-store collection programs through a well-developed multi-stakeholder recycling and education campaign.

2.2 Pilot Program Objectives

Because it is widely recognized that the retail environment is the main point of distribution of plastic bags, at-store promotion of plastic bag recycling and bag conservation was determined to be the first objective of the Pilot Program. The second objective of the Pilot Program was to expand beyond the collection of just plastic grocery bags to include all acceptable plastic film bags and plastic product wrap. Recognizing that the recycling program should include other plastic film in addition to plastic shopping bags was determined to be a critical aspect of the Pilot Program.

Therefore, the foundation of the pilot “At-Store” campaign was to draw upon various stakeholders in order to expand the availability of retail locations within Lake County that accept plastic bags and plastic film product wrap from the general public, while raising awareness about plastic bag and plastic film wrap recycling and its availability to increase the recovery and recycling of these plastic materials.

The Task Force believed that these aforementioned objectives, if executed successfully, could provide the opportunity to recover significantly greater volumes of valuable feedstock thereby diverting significant volumes of plastic from landfills. Diverting plastic bags and plastic film wrap from landfills is currently predicated on consumers being aware of recycling opportunities and retailers providing consumer drop-off locations and efficient management of these materials.

2.3 Including the Stakeholders

The Task Force agreed that to fulfill the Pilot Program objectives, various stakeholders would need to be included in the Pilot's development. The Task Force identified the following organizations as valuable participants within the Pilot Program:

- Retailers and Grocers
- Suppliers and Vendors
- End Markets/Recyclers
- Local and State Government
- Chambers of Commerce
- American Chemistry Council

2.4 Determining Pilot Participants

It was agreed that the first step in implementing the Pilot Program was to develop a comprehensive list of Lake County retail businesses that operate in facilities of 10,000 square feet or greater, which was accomplished by utilizing a list that had been previously developed by SWALCO. The Illinois Retail Merchants Association also assisted by reviewing its member list and contacting various Lake County chambers of commerce to learn of other businesses that met the eligibility criteria established in the Act.

2.5 Development and Use of Promotional Material

Through the assistance of the stakeholders, the Task Force agreed that it should provide the following to the Pilot Program participants:

Collection Equipment

- Recycling bin
- Collection bags

Merchandizing Materials

- Employee pin (good tool, need mgmt. to require staff to wear them and understand program)
- Various Signage:
 - ✓ Poster in window to allow visibility from parking lot
 - ✓ Wall or overhead sign at bag collection bin
 - ✓ Decal for top of collection bin
 - ✓ Sticker with message about bag recycling at checkout stands

Training Support

- In-store training materials (for “front” and “back” of house)
- Bagger training tips
- Cashier training – information/remind customers that store provides plastic bag recycling and that they should bring all unneeded clean plastic bags and film wrappers back for recycling

2.6 Management and Evaluation

Through the assistance of the stakeholders, the Task Force agreed that it should manage and support the Pilot Program by administering the following:

Promotions

- Write articles/press releases promoting the pilot and recognizing its participants
- Produce Public Service Announcements for local radio, cable TV, newspapers, government and community
- Produce an insert for utility bills
- Produce a door hanger to distribute to homes by local groups or clubs
- Produce a video or slide show to air on cable TV and retailer checkout lane monitors
- Coordinate a Gift Card Giveaway in tandem with in-store consumer survey

Evaluation

- Track enrollment in the pilot program
- Quantify the benefits and costs to the environment, retailers and residents of Lake County
- Provide a cost-benefit analysis of the pilot program
- Document any burdens suffered as a result of the pilot
- Describe any unforeseen transportation issues, liability, or cost for participants in the pilot
- Determine if there was an increase in plastic bag recycling volume after recycling promotion
- Survey consumers (in person or via an online survey) and ask:
 - ✓ Did they see any of the promotion/education around plastic bag recycling?
 - ✓ Did a cashier tell them anything about availability of recycling?
 - ✓ Did they notice if their bags were packed better?
 - ✓ Did they use reusable bags? Did they remember to bring them? How?
 - ✓ Did they bring back their bags for recycling? How often?

2.7 Determine Costs and Establish a Timeline

The Task Force realized that in order to accomplish many of the Pilot Program tasks real costs would be incurred in both staff time and capital outlay. The Task Force agreed to attempt to itemize program costs and assess which stakeholders could assist in defraying those costs, along with delegating specific duties and tasks to stakeholders, their staff, or Task Force Members.

Additionally, the Task Force established a timeline to help keep on track and evaluate progress. Appendix 6 contains a draft of the Guidelines and Procedures, including a timeline, which the Task Force worked from to implement the Pilot Program.

Section 3 Program Implementation

3.1 Introduction

The Pilot Program was ultimately implemented in 76 retail locations in Lake County and ran from May through December 2009. During this period 259,183 pounds of plastic film were recovered with an estimated market value of \$26,000. This Section discusses the implementation of the highly successful Pilot Program in Lake County.

3.2 Establishing Program Support

In November of 2008 the Task Force began work on implementing the Pilot Program. Early on it was realized the Task Force had very little funding available other than a small budget of \$2,000 that had been pledged by SWALCO to purchase collection equipment and print materials. Additionally, it was recognized that a staff person was greatly needed to assist in the coordination and implementation of the activities outlined in the plan.

Working closely with the Task Force as a stakeholder was the American Chemistry Council – Plastics Division (ACC). ACC had developed, collaboratively with the Plastic Bag Affiliates, a professional, well thought out promotional and consumer education program for plastic bag and plastic film wrap recycling programs within the retail industry. Samples of these promotional and educational materials can be found in Appendix 7 and can also be viewed on the plasticbagrecycling.org website. At the request of the Task Force, ACC agreed to provide access to the promotional and educational materials so that they could be provided to participating retailers upon request for no cost. In addition to this the Task Force asked ACC to assist with project funding to hire a project intern and purchase some of the supplies needed to implement the pilot. ACC provided this funding and also provided the Task Force extensive access to its staff, which provided invaluable technical and analytical assistance throughout the project.

3.3 Assessment of Retail Recycling Programs

Through the cooperative efforts of the Illinois Retail Merchants Association (IRMA) and the Solid Waste Agency of Lake County (SWALCO), a comprehensive list of Lake County retail establishments 10,000 square feet or greater was compiled. 213 retail businesses were identified as potential participants and included retail businesses that were known to be already collecting plastic bags from customers (see Appendix 8). Next, critical corporate level cooperation was sought by soliciting the identified retailers. The Task Force sent them an introduction letter (see Appendix 9), introducing them to the Task Force and asking them to consider participating in the pilot.

With the assistance of ACC, both the development and hosting of a web-based survey tool was completed. Following the introduction letter, a follow-up letter was e-mailed to the eligible retailers asking them to complete an online survey to gauge their level of interest for participating in the pilot while also learning if they had an established plastic bag and plastic film product wrap collection program, and if so to gather additional information (see Appendix 10). Critical questions that were asked included:

- Was the eligible Lake County retailer willing to participate in the pilot At-Store campaign
- Types of materials the retailers currently recycle
- Markets that are taking the retailers recycling
- Volume of materials the retailers recycle (recovery rates)
- Current at-store messaging (if any)
- Type of bins used; placement and signage at bin; frequency of collection
- Method in which recyclable materials are being handled/managed in the store

- Information about existing programs to better understand what is unique about their recycling program and their education efforts
- Local community efforts to promote recycling

The Lake County pilot sought to involve as many retailers over 10,000 square feet in size as possible participants in an effort to promote recycling of plastic bags and plastic film product wrap at stores. Each store would have, at least, one visible collection bin near each entrance specifically for the recycling of plastic bags. IRMA was largely responsible for enlisting retailers to participate in the Pilot Program.

3.4 Survey Results

The online survey tool was used to compile the initial survey data. For larger corporate stores such as Jewel-Osco, Dominick's, CVS Pharmacy, and Walgreens, a letter and survey were sent to their respective corporate headquarters. The small franchises and sole proprietor businesses were solicited individually. A total of 52 letters with accompanying surveys were distributed and significant effort was made by the Task Force to gather responses. The end result yielded a total of 23 responses (a 43% response rate) and ultimately resulted in 15 retail business indicating willingness to participate in the Pilot Program.

Several of the responding retail businesses had multiple retail locations within Lake County. Accounting for the multiple locations resulted in 85 retail locations as potential Pilot Program participants. Several of the retail businesses that indicated a willingness to participate had previously established bag collection programs within their stores. For the majority of the retail locations the Pilot Program would be the first time that they collected plastic bags and product wrap from their customers. Appendix 11 contains a summary of the survey responses.

3.5 Enrollment of Participating Retailers

The Task Force conducted follow-up discussions with the respondents that indicated a willingness to participate in the Pilot Program. The Project Intern held preliminary meetings with each retail business that indicated an interest in participating in the Pilot Program to determine their individual needs. After conducting these preliminary meetings, it was discovered that six of the retail business, representing a total of nine stores were unable to participate in the Pilot Program. The primary reason for this was that these retailers and the Task Force were unable to coordinate a sustainable end market for the plastic bags and plastic film product wrap they would be collecting. These retail businesses did not have established reverse logistics opportunities within their companies to have bags and film plastic product wrap taken back to a distribution center or warehouse, nor were the majority of them able to find a recycler willing to pick-up the bags and other film plastic from a small one or two store operation. In the instances where some of the small businesses were able to find a recycler willing to pick-up their plastic bags and plastic film packaging wrap, they found the cost to be prohibitive. Another contributing factor was that some of the retail businesses were providing their customers with bags that were made from a degradable plastic, which few plastic markets are willing to accept due to the risk of these plastics cross contaminating other recyclable plastic.

Excluding those retailers, the Task Force was able to successfully enroll nine retail businesses that accounted for a total of 76 retail locations within Lake County. Table 3.1 lists the Lake County retail business that participated in the pilot, along with the number of stores each retail business operates and if they had previously established a plastic bag collection program.

Table 3.1 Lake County Plastic Bag Collection Pilot Participants

PILOT PARTICIPANTS	NUMBER OF STORES	HAS BAG PROGRAM
Butera Market	1	No
CVS/pharmacy	10	No
JC Penney	2	No
Jewel-Osco	16	Yes
Piggly Wiggly	3	No
Lowe's	2	No
PetSmart	3	No
Sunset Foods	3	Yes
Walgreens	36	No

To further recognize the retailers that chose to participate in the Pilot Program, the legislative members of the Task Force co-wrote a letter that was sent to each of the participating retail businesses, expressing the Task Force's appreciation for their participation in this recycling effort (see Appendix 12).

Next, the Task Force Project Intern met with store managers and staff. At this point, a Plastic Bag Recycling Toolkit was provided and reviewed. The Plastic Bag Recycling Toolkit contained a memo to employees introducing the Pilot Program, a plastic bag recycling training guide, front-of-the-store and back-of-the-store-posters, and a data reporting form (see Appendix 13 for a sample of the materials included in the Plastic Bag Recycling Toolkit).

Upon request, the retail businesses that were interested in using the plastic bag collection bins were furnished with bins courtesy of ACC. Most of the retail businesses that had previously been collecting plastic bags chose to continue to use the bins that they had already been using. Two of the participating retail businesses utilized the service of a mail-back collection bin. Each participating retail business was also offered an opportunity to receive various forms of program signage that could be displayed at various locations within their stores, but only a few of the stores accepted these materials. Table 3.2 lists the type of collection bins and whether Task Force provided signage was utilized.

Table 3.2 Lake County Plastic Bag Collection Container and Signage Use

PILOT PARTICIPANTS	TYPE OF BIN USED	USE OF TASK FORCE SIGNAGE
Butera Market	Task Force Provided	Yes
CVS/pharmacy	Third Party Mail Back	No
JC Penney	Store Provided	No
Jewel-Osco	Store Provided	No
Piggly Wiggly	Store Provided	Yes
Lowe's	Store Provided	No
PetSmart	Third Party Mail Back	No
Sunset Foods	Task Force Provided	Yes
Walgreens	Store Provided	No

3.6 Media Event and Promotion Efforts

The Task Force hosted a media event to highlight the official kick off of the six-month Pilot Program. The media event occurred on July 20, 2009 at the Sunset Foods store in Libertyville. A media advisory was sent out by the Task Force inviting local, regional and national media sources to attend (see Appendix 14). The goal of the event was to increase public awareness of the Lake County Plastic Bag Recycling Pilot Program and communicate the message that plastic bags and plastic film product wrap can be recycled through collection programs hosted by local retail businesses. The media event was well-attended and covered by various news organizations (Appendix 15 contains many of the resulting news

stories that were published following the event). Lake County's cable television affiliate (LCTV) was also present and compiled a video that can be viewed from the Lake County Government website⁵. Many of the Task Force members were present along with representatives from the various retail businesses that were participating in the Pilot Program. Guest speakers at the event included Task Force Members; Ms. Tanya Triche, Senator Terry Link, Representative Kathleen Ryg, County Board Member Ms. Ann Maine, and Mr. Peter Adrian. Additional speakers included Mr. Thaddeus Tazioli of Sunset Foods and Mr. Keith Christman of the American Chemistry Council – Plastics Division.

Following the introduction of the Pilot Program, the Task Force then focused its attention on additional promotion opportunities. An informational guide was posted on the Swalco.org web site⁶ to help residents of Lake County learn more about plastic bag and plastic film product wrap recycling opportunities. In addition to providing a detailed list of acceptable items, the web site was also equipped with an interactive map containing links to the retail business in the County that provide for the recycling of acceptable plastic film materials. The Lake County Pilot Program was also prominently highlighted in several sections of the PlasticBagRecycling.org web site which is hosted by the Plastic Bag Affiliates and the America Chemistry Council.

3.7 Consumer Survey and Gift Card Give Away

In an effort to learn more about the impact of the Task Force's promotions and the effect the Pilot Program was having on the consumers, the Task Force (along with ACC) developed a consumer survey (see Appendix 16) that was conducted at seven of the participating retail businesses. To draw consumers' attention to participating in the survey, a \$100 store gift card was raffled off at each store to a randomly selected customer that completed a survey. An ad publicizing the promotion was prominently placed in the Piggly Wiggly stores weekly circular (see Appendix 17). A display table was set in a prominent location within each store and was staffed by the Task Force Project Intern. In addition to administering the survey, information was provided to the customers and various common items that are wrapped in plastic film were on display along with samples of Trex Deck plastic lumber that is made from recycled plastic bags and film. This was a very successful effort both in terms of building support for the program with store management and staff as well as heightening consumer interest. It not only enlightened customers about the store recycling program, but also informed them about the types of plastic bags and plastic film product wraps that can be returned to the store for recycling. It further offered the Task Force a better understanding of consumer knowledge, behavior and attitudes regarding plastic film recycling and reusable shopping bag use (Appendix 18 contains a summary of the consumer surveys).

3.8 General Management

Throughout the term of the Pilot Program, the Task Force Project Intern contacted and/or visited the participating retail businesses to observe the implementation of the program. The Project Intern contacted management at the participating retail locations to learn more about the processes used at the various stores to move the collected plastic bags and plastic film product wrap to the back of the store where it would be stored and then transferred out for recycling. The Project Intern also assisted store management with placement of front-of-store posters, check-out stand stickers and collection bins.

3.9 Pilot Program Data

Participating retail businesses were asked to provide to the Task Force monthly metrics identifying the volume of plastic bags and plastic film product wrap collected from their store recycling program. Data

⁵ Lake County Television (LCTV) coverage of the Plastic Bag Recycling Task Force, July 20, 2009 Media Event can be viewed from the following web link: http://lakecnty.granicus.com/MediaPlayer.php?view_id=3&clip_id=259

⁶ The Lake County Plastic Bag and Film Recycling web site can be viewed from the following web link: <http://www.lakecountyil.gov/swalco/PlasticBagRecycling.htm>

was reported on the 15th of every month. Most participating retail businesses were able to provide the data monthly. However, due to the voluntary nature of the program, some participating business only reported data at the conclusion of the Pilot Program. Complicating matters was the fact that in several cases the data provided was a combination of plastic bags collected mixed with the plastic film shrink wrap removed from bulk items received at the store. Table 3.3 lists the data reporting frequency and if the data is for plastic bags only.

Table 3.3 Lake County Plastic Bag Collection Data Reporting

PILOT PARTICIPANTS	MONTHLY DATA	PLASTIC BAGS ONLY
Butera Market	Yes	No
CVS/pharmacy	Yes	Yes
JC Penney	Yes	No
Jewel-Osco	No	No
Piggly Wiggly	Yes	No
Lowe's	Yes	No
PetSmart	Yes	Yes
Sunset Foods	Yes	No
Walgreens	No	Yes

Section 4 Findings

4.1 Introduction

Through the efforts put forth by the Task Force and its stakeholders, the Pilot Project effectively increased the number of stores that voluntarily recover plastic bags and plastic film packaging wrap. Residents responded positively to education about bag and film recycling. However, the data illustrated below demonstrates that there is an opportunity to recover more material through better dissemination of information about how and what to recycle.

Based on the plastics-related findings of the Illinois Commodity/Waste Generation and Characterization Study discussed in Section 1.2 and shown in Table 4.1, Illinois generates 494,280 tons of plastic film (all types) per year and landfills 99 percent of it.

Table 4.1 Illinois Recovery/Diversion Rates for Plastic Materials

Type of Plastic	Total (tons)	Disposed (tons)	Recovered (tons)	Recovery Rate
All Plastics	2,120,170	1,988,700	131,500	6.2%
Grocery & Merchandise Bags	81,400	80,250	1,200	1.5%
Commercial & Industrial Film	218,380	216,810	1,600	0.7%
Other Film	194,500	193,910	600	0.3%
#1 PET Bottles/Jars	164,620	146,630	18,000	10.9%
#1 Other PET Containers	13,850	11,810	2,000	14.4%
#2 HDPE Bottles/Jars - Clear	64,400	60,860	3,500	5.4%
#2 HDPE Bottles/Jars - Color	93,670	87,180	6,500	6.9%
#2 Other HDPE Containers	13,170	11,870	1,300	9.9%
#6 Exp. Polystyrene Packaging	122,320	121,830	500	0.4%
#3 - #7 Other – All	123,750	118,400	5,400	4.4%
Other Rigid Plastic Products	586,130	500,970	85,200	14.5%
Trash Bags	166,030	165,220	800	0.5%
Other Plastic	277,950	272,460	5,500	2.0%

More specifically this table shows that Illinois is recovering only about 1.5% of grocery & merchandise plastic film bags, 0.7% of commercial & industrial plastic film, and 0.3% of other film.

4.2 Data from the Pilot Program

Under the Pilot Program, participating retail businesses were asked to report monthly the amount (in pounds) of plastic bags and film collected from their stores. Due to the voluntary nature of the Pilot Program, some businesses only reported data at the conclusion of the Pilot Program. It should also be noted that data provided by several of the businesses was reported as a combination of plastic bags collected from consumers and plastic film shrink wrap that is removed from bulk items received at the stores. This is a common occurrence at most of the large retailers that participated.

The Pilot Program operated over an eight-month period beginning in May of 2009 and concluding at the end of December 2009. During the first two months of the Pilot Project, a few of the participating retailers were in the process of establishing their collection system and did not begin reporting data until the month of July. As participating retailers reported data each month, the Task Force Project Intern compiled the information into a summary table (see Appendix 19). Over the term of the Pilot Project, a total of 259,183 pounds of plastic bags and plastic film was reported recovered from the 76 participating retail locations.

Due to the voluntary nature of the Pilot Project, the Task Force was not able to collect effective baseline data from the participating retailers that had been collecting plastic bags prior to the introduction of the Pilot Program. However, due to the fact that six of the nine participating retailers were not collecting plastic bags and plastic film packaging wrap prior to the introduction of the Pilot Program, the Task Force

can report that there was a 15,773 pound increase (six percent) in the volume of plastic film collected due to the enrollment of the six retail businesses.

The Task Force was unable to determine the precise amount of plastic bags vs. plastic film shrink wrap present in the data provided. It is estimated that the ratio of plastic bag vs. plastic film shrink wrap may range anywhere from 30% plastic film shrink (small grocery stores) up to 90 percent plastic film shrink (large grocery and big box/home improvement stores). It is important to note that most of the long established retail based plastic bag recovery programs have realized the cost-effectiveness of segregating plastic film shrink wrap from other waste due to the value attained from marketing the segregated plastic film wrap along with the avoided disposal costs. Introducing a take-back of consumer plastic bags also adds to the total volume of plastic film collected at each store, increasing overall net profit, while demonstrating to customers the retailer's commitment to managing a valuable resource and protecting the environment.

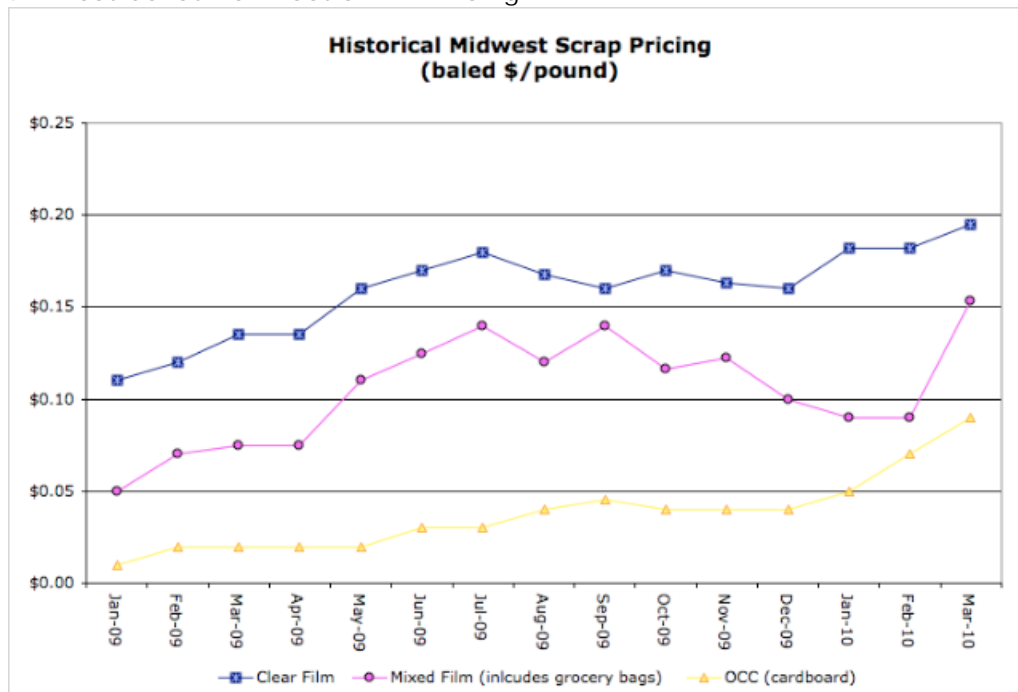
In addition to the plastic bag and plastic film recovery data collected during the Pilot Program, the Task Force attempted to measure consumer behaviors and attitudes in regard to recycling plastic bags. A consumer survey was conducted (as discussed in Section 3.7) at seven of the participating retail stores, the results are summarized below:

- On average, 85 percent of the consumers knew they could recycle their plastic bags at a retail store.
- On average, 82 percent of the consumers responded that they actually do recycle their plastic bags.
- Over half of the consumers understood plastic film wrap could be recycled along with plastic bags.
- The consumers believe that plastic bags are recycled back into new bags.
- The most common plastic film items that consumers were unaware could be recycled were zip lock bags, furniture wrap and Tyvek envelopes.
- Consumers most commonly learn about the availability of plastic bag recycling at a specific store from information provided by store employees, seeing a plastic bag recycling bin in the store, seeing signs and posters in the store, or seeing it promoted in a store circular or ad.
- Consumers indicated that they commonly learn that plastic bags can be recycled from information they obtain from their community, followed by the information presented to them at the retail stores. Consumers also learn about recycling bags through the internet, newspaper schools and signs/posters.

4.3 Plastic Film Markets and Value

The market for recycled plastic film is an important component to the success and sustainability of any recycling program. The economic downturn at the end of 2008 impacted most if not all of the recyclable commodity pricing markets. Commodity values for plastic film material have begun to improve and continue to hold stable in 2010. Increases in the commodity value of plastic film help the economic feasibility of recycling programs such as the one implemented by the Task Force. Figure 4.2 is a chart provided by Moore Recycling Associates, which illustrates Midwest pricing for clear film plastic and mixed film plastic (including grocery bags) from 2009 into 2010. OCC (cardboard) pricing is also included in the graph to illustrate how the value of this commodity compares to plastic film.

Figure 4.2 Post Consumer Plastic Film Pricing



According to the 2008 National Post-Consumer Recycled Plastic Bag & Film Report, “Processors estimate bags make up 40 percent of the commingled bales purchased from retail programs.” Well-established retail collection programs have found efficiency in bag recycling through the combination of stretch wrap, bags, and other polyethylene film. While the scrap value for clean, clear stretch wrap is usually higher than mixed film, there is value in mixed film (Figure 4.2). In addition to scrap value, retailers realize benefits from a commingled stream through increased waste diversion and customer appreciation for the opportunity to recycle conveniently.

Well-established retail collection programs strive for maximum scrap value and therefore benefit from film recovery by minimizing the level of contamination in recovered material. Quality control is a critical element in achieving a sustainable recycling program. An example of long-term retail collection programs is Jewel-Osco. Jewel-Osco has been voluntarily collecting plastic bags from the public for over 20 years. Jewel-Osco is one of the leading retailers in the state for film and bag recovery according to Trex Company who purchases their film.

Unfortunately retailers lacking back haul capabilities (either through their own trucks or their suppliers’ trucks) to central distribution centers must find other outlets for their material and are often dependent upon recycling service providers who thrive when the market is strong and struggle when the market weakens as it did in the third quarter of 2008. The dependence on third party recyclers can be a hardship for small retailers.

It can be concluded that the most efficient plastic bag and plastic film packaging wrap recycling programs are those that involve distributors or wholesalers with the capacity to backhaul scrap material during delivery of products to stores.

4.4 Cost Benefit Analysis

Based on the “lessons learned” from the Pilot Program, three primary collection models were utilized by retailers. The first was the Reverse Logistics Model used by larger retail businesses that operate regional distribution centers and have their own fleet of trucks to distribute goods and supplies between the stores and distribution center. At the distribution center, the plastic film material is consolidated and sold to a

plastic film buyer. Because of the advantage of being able to back-haul the plastic bags and plastic film wrap collected within their stores, this model creates an economy of scale that maximizes value and creates greater stability due to low overhead. The participating retail business in the Pilot Program using a Reverse Logistics Model were Butera Market, Piggly Wiggly, JC Penney, Jewel-Osco, Lowe's and Walgreens.

The second model was the Vendor Take Back Model which operates similar to the Reverse Logistics Model but does not require the retail business to operate its own distribution center or own a fleet of trucks. The participating retailer using the Vendor Take Back model during the Pilot Program was Sunset Foods. The Vendor Take Back involves a vendor that supplies certain products or supplies to the retail business on a frequent basis. When the vendor makes a routine delivery to the retail business, the vendor picks up the plastic bags and plastic film packaging wrap that the retail business has collected since the last vendor delivery. The vendor, in turn, transports these plastic film materials back to its warehouse facility for consolidation and sale to a plastic film buyer. Most often the vendor provides this service at no cost to the retail business. The vendor may or may not provide a share of the market value with the retail business.

The third scenario is the Mail Back Service Model. Companies are emerging throughout the U.S. to meet the demand for collecting recyclable materials when businesses are affected by legislation or some other factor. In Lake County, G2 Revolution provided the recycling services to the participating retail businesses that mailed the recovered plastics back to G2 Revolution. The participating stores in the Pilot Program using this mail back model were CVS Pharmacy and Pet Smart. Under this model, a retail business enlists the services of a mail back recycling company to provide a plastic bag collection container that serves as a durable self contained shipping box. Once the container is full of plastic bags, the retail store seals the container, affixes a prepaid parcel service shipping label and sends it to the mail back recycling company for processing. Once received at the mail back service processing facility, the location of the retail business shipping the container is noted into a database along with the weight of plastic bags received. This data is reported back to the retail store and an empty box containing another prepaid shipping label is shipped via a parcel service back to the retail store to continue the process. This scenario has a cost associated with it and currently does not provide a return-on-investment to the retail business. Several small retail businesses utilize this service because it provides a turn-key solution when they do not have access to a Reverse Logistics or Vendor Take Back Model.

In order to conduct the cost-benefit analysis required by the Plastic Bag Recycling Act, the Task Force utilized a Cost Benefit Analysis Tool developed by the ACC (see Appendix 20). This Tool is made widely available for businesses to use through the plasticbagrecycling.org web site. Because it was recognized that the Reverse Logistics Model, as described above, was the most robust method for a retail business to effectively collect, transport and market plastic film bags and plastic film product wrap, the Cost Benefit Analysis Tool was run using this model. As shown in Appendix 21, the Cost Benefit Analysis Tool reported a net benefit to the retail business of approximately \$810.00 per year. Data that was input (highlighted in yellow) was estimated and considered to be conservative. Output provided by this Tool will vary when accounting for the purchase of a bailer if one is not already available.

4.5 Unforeseen Issues or Burdens

At the conclusion of the Pilot Program, the Task Force conducted a final survey of the participating retailers asking them to reflect on their efforts. Seven of the nine participating retail businesses responded to the survey; the questions asked were:

1. Was the recycling program a positive experience?
2. Will you continue to collect and recycle plastic bags?
3. What are the dominant costs of the program?
 - a. Labor costs?
 - b. Material and other costs?

4. What were the major issues involved with implementing the recycling program?
5. What were your major benefits realized from the recycling program?
6. Summary of experience and any recommendations:

All the participating retailers responded favorably overall to the Pilot Program. Significantly, the seven retailers representing dozens of stores indicated that they intended to continue collecting plastic bags from their customers. Responses varied on the cost of the program, from those that indicated costs were minimal and built into daily operational procedures to others that indicated they had initial startup costs associated with the purchase of collection containers and plastic collection bags. The retail businesses that used the Mail Back Service Model responded that they had on average a \$60.00 per month collection service cost.

With regard to issues that were encountered, most stores remained positive but provided some critical analysis and helpful suggestions. Major benefits reflected a common theme of community involvement, avoided disposal cost and environmental impact. One retailer responded that the waste haulers should collect this material at homes. Another did not think it should be mandated due to some retailers not having the ability to find buyers for the plastic bags and film. Many of the participants noted that they would continue to implement the program at other stores and that more companies should join in the effort. Appendix 22 contains a summary of the post pilot survey results.

4.6 Lessons Learned in Implementing the Pilot Program

The ultimate purpose of any pilot program is to learn from the program and to use that information in making future decisions. The Task Force learned many lessons during the Pilot Program which are summarized below.

- Once the Lake County retailers participating in the Pilot Program determined which collection model worked best for their stores, it appears they were all willing to continue their collection programs after the Pilot Program ended.
- The cost-benefit analysis results will vary depending on the collection model chosen by the retailer.
- The issue is larger than just plastic bags, and includes all plastic films generated by consumers, who have no other option at this time but retail collection for this material.
- There is a growing market for post-consumer plastic bags and plastic film packaging wrap. Various end markets exist both in North America and in various off-shore countries. Retail businesses interested in marketing these plastic film materials can learn about buyers by searching a data base provided on the plasticbagrecycling.org web site. A list of local buyers is also provided in Appendix 23.
- Plastic bags continue to draw a lot of public interest and in turn political action, and during the course of the Pilot Program several developments arose. The first was that the City of Chicago passed an ordinance requiring retail businesses within the City to collect and recycle customers' plastic bags. Additionally, the States of New York, Rhode Island and Delaware placed a similar mandate upon their retail businesses. In January of 2010 the District of Columbia imposed a five cent tax on both plastic and paper grocery bags as a way to fund a local river clean- up effort and reduce litter in and around their local surface waters. Also of great interest to the Task Force was the Full Circle Recycling Initiative announced in April 2009. Under this initiative, U.S. plastic bag manufacturers announced an effort to promote recycling by using recycled plastic bags and wraps to manufacture new plastic bags, and set a self imposed goal of using 40 percent recycled content (25 percent post consumer) by the year 2015.

Section 5 Task Force Recommendations

According to the findings of this report, an estimated 500,000 tons of plastic bags and film are landfilled each year in Illinois, with a potential market value of over \$100 million. This represents a tremendous waste of a non-renewable resource that can be recycled, but lacks an adequate collection infrastructure. Currently, plastic bags and film are not accepted by most residential curbside or commercial sector recycling programs due to processing concerns at material recovery/recycling facilities. As a result, many retailers have implemented plastic bag and film collection sites at their stores. Without such collection points, the consumer would have no option for recycling plastic film.

The recommendations are based on the Task Force's observations and findings during the Pilot Program. While 76 retail locations in Lake County participated in the Pilot Program, many other retailers chose not to participate primarily due to difficulties in securing the necessary logistics for processing and transporting plastic bags and film, making it impractical to implement effective collection programs. In addition, it was clear to the Task Force members that public education and increased end markets need to be key components of any future effort to increase the recovery of plastic bags and film.

The Pilot Program helped demonstrate that many concerns about plastic bag recycling can be successfully overcome. A testament to this is that all of the retailers who started collection programs under the Pilot Program have decided to keep those collection sites operating. This would appear to indicate that the benefits (social, environmental, monetary) of having collection sites outweigh the costs.

Based on the findings from the Pilot Program, the Task Force members, except the Illinois Retail Merchants Association which does not support Recommendation #1, were able to agree on the following recommendations:

1. The General Assembly should consider legislation to increase the recovery and recycling of plastic bags and film. The primary components of this legislation should be:
 - a. A requirement that all plastic grocery and carry out bags are labeled with "Please reuse or recycle at a participating location" or a similar phrase and are marked with the appropriate plastic resin identification code.
 - b. A requirement that retailers with greater than 10,000 square feet of retail space provide collection programs for plastic bags and film. Include an opt out provision for retailers who either don't distribute plastic bags or can demonstrate they are unable to implement cost-effective collection programs. Another option considered by the Task Force was to require wholesale and distribution companies, who provide bags to Illinois retailers (that transact greater than \$500,000 in Illinois retail sales each year), to offer and provide a bag and film recycling program for their retail customers that request such a service. Including the wholesale/distribution company responsibility concept addresses one of the key impediments to a retail store having a collection program, lack of "reverse logistics" to ship and process the plastic bags and film in a cost effective manner.
 - c. A requirement that by January 1, 2015 plastic grocery and carry out bags be manufactured with at least 30 percent recycled content, of which 15 percent must be post consumer.
 - d. A requirement that reusable bags be available for purchase at retail locations greater than 10,000 square feet if the store offers single-use plastic carryout bags to its customers.
 - e. An educational component to inform consumers about recycling opportunities (possibly a statewide database of collection sites) and the importance of expanding recycling efforts beyond plastic bags to other suitable plastic films.

- f. A study of the use of degradable plastics and their potential impact on petroleum based plastics recycling, composting operations, and overall environmental impacts versus conventional plastics.
2. The recycling industry (both material recovery facility operators and end markets) should evaluate whether the obstacles related to collecting plastic bags and film in curbside recycling programs and/or commercial sector recycling programs can be overcome, especially the obstacles related to processing and marketing post consumer plastic films at material recovery/recycling facilities. If this material could be collected through existing residential and commercial recycling programs the need for retail based collection systems would be greatly reduced.

The Illinois Retail Merchants Association (IRMA) does not agree that legislation should be recommended to address this issue. IRMA supports a voluntary approach to collecting plastic bags and film, one that encourages retailers to collect plastic bags and film, and focuses on education of the public as well.

While the Task Force had hoped to reach general consensus on all the recommendations, ultimately this was not possible. The Task Force does agree there is a need to expand the access for collecting plastic bags and film, and to increase the amount of education regarding plastic bag and film recycling throughout Illinois. The Task Force also agrees that Illinois should further explore the option of collecting plastic bags and film through existing residential and commercial recycling programs.

Memo to the Board of Directors

August 24, 2006

A – 3. Plastic Bag Recycling Plan

BACKGROUND: Previously, staff has presented the issue of plastic bags blowing from the active face of the Countryside landfill. These plastic bags often blow across the open land and catch in trees and tall grasses. Landfill staff is routinely dispatched clean up the blown litter from these adjacent roadsides and open areas.

Staff was asked to examine this issue and develop a solution to both reduce the amount of plastic grocery bags being consumed and how to dispose of them within Lake County. Staff prepared a report addressing the topic of plastic bag usage within Lake County and the availability of recycling options. This was followed by the Board recommending that staff develop a plan that urges retailers, who provide customers with plastic bags, to accept and recycle these bags. It was also requested that the retailers offer their customers a choice of paper or plastic bags; and have retailers provide or sell reusable bags. To the extent possible, this effort is addressed in the accompanying resolution.

The Board also directed the Legislative Committee to amend the SWALCO Legislative Policy to develop a legislative proposal to require retailers, who provide plastic bags to their customers, to collect and recycle the plastic bags that are returned to them by their customers.

Additionally, staff has developed components of the plan that would enable the Agency to amend our Capacity Agreement with Waste Management Recycle America so to include plastic bags in the list of Recyclable Material and also, assist members in modifying their municipal waste and recycling hauling contracts to allow for their residents to place plastic bags in their recycling containers for collection. The plan also addresses the opportunity for the Agency to work cooperatively with the Lake County Health Department in developing a County-wide bag recycling education campaign that would utilize Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity Recycling Grants Program funding. A sample of an educational ad produced by the Plastic Bag Alliance is also attached. This information is made available at no cost and can be customized to a particular community.

ENCLOSED DOCUMENTS: Plastic Bag Recycling Report; Plastic Bag Recycling Plan Agenda; SWALCO Resolution 2006- ; Sample Print Ad.

STAFF: Andrew H. Quigley, Executive Director, Peter Adrian, Recycling Coordinator

**THE SOLID WASTE AGENCY OF LAKE COUNTY
PLASTIC BAG RECYCLING REPORT
AUGUST 2006**

Introduction

The plastic “T-shirt” grocery bag emerged in most grocery stores in the early 80’s. Plastic bags are made out of “film”, or thin flexible sheets of plastic made from polyethylene resin that can be readily recycled if the recovered material is clean and dry. A standard “T-shirt” style plastic bag costs stores about 1.2 cents. A traditional paper bag costs stores 3 to 4 cents. Some manufacturers have introduced biodegradable or compostable plastic bags made from starches, polymers or poly-lactic acid, and no polyethylene—though these remain prohibitively expensive and account for less than 1 percent of the market.

It is estimated that about 100 billion grocery plastic grocery bags are used each year in the United States (only 0.6 percent are being recycled). According to the Food Marketing Institute, the average American makes 2.3 trips to the grocery store each week. Taking away with them five to 10 bags each time, which calculates out to be between 600 and 1,200 bags per shopper each year. Applying these figures to Lake Counties 700,000 residents mean that locally somewhere between 420 – 840 million plastic grocery bags are being generated yearly.

Nearly half of U.S. supermarkets have recycling available for plastic bags. These collection programs are available at many grocery and retailers through Lake County. The following is a list of some of the larger retailers and the status of their recycling efforts:

RETAILER	COLLECTS & RECYCLES BAGS	OFFERS PAPER BAGS	SELLS REUSABLE BAGS
Jewel Foods	Yes	Yes	No
Dominick’s Foods	Yes	Yes	No
Cub Foods	Yes	Yes	No
Pick n’ Save	Yes	Yes	No
Piggly Wiggly	Yes	Yes	No
Sunset Foods	Yes	Yes	Yes
Whole Foods	Yes	Yes	Yes
Trader Joe’s	Yes	Yes	Yes
Kohl’s	Yes	No	No
Wal Mart	Yes	No	No
Target	No	No	No
Sears	No	No	No
JC Penny	No	No	No
Walgreen’s	No	No	No
CVS	No	No	No

Target, Sears, JC Penny, Walgreens and CVS do not recycle plastic bags, yet they offer them to customer. Target indicated they are considering implementing a take back program. They

offered no date as to when they will implement a program. Walgreens has indicated a willingness to participate in a collection program when one becomes available to them. The vendor that Walgreens uses, to manage their waste and recycling, also indicated interest in developing a pilot bag recycling program within Lake County. All of these stores could easily recycle plastic bags if they collected them from customers. Most of these companies use their own transportation to take back cardboard and returned merchandise to their distribution centers. Adding recovered plastic bags should not present a problem to them. Those that recycle cardboard, utilizing a local waste hauler, should be able to place recovered plastic bags into their recycling dumpsters. And those that do not recycle currently, can easily contact their waste hauler and add recycling collection to their existing waste service.

Current national market value for recovered film plastics is 20 cents per pound. Plastic bags are recycled into many different end uses. Many of the film bags are recycled into composite plastic lumber products. Other films and bags are reprocessed into small pellets, which are then sold to make new films and various injection molded products. One of the challenges to increased film recovery (like all recyclable material) is efficient collection or consolidation. Film can be challenging to collect because of its low weight to volume ratio. It takes approximately 80 plastic grocery bags to make a pound.

Drop-off collection is the preferred method for recovering plastic bags. It allows for centralized collection of large volume of plastic film while also keeping contamination from other wastes and recyclables to a minimum. Curbside collection, is possible however, the Agency may have to modify its Capacity Agreement with Waste management Recycle America to allow for Agency members to deliver film plastics to their facility. Additionally, members may also need to amend their waste hauling contracts to include plastic bags as an acceptable recyclable material. Allowing for plastic bags to be collected at the curb may lead to an increase in blowing litter. This may be more prevalent in the communities that are not using collection containers with lids. An effective public education campaign may reduce or elevate this problem.

National and International Action

Over the past few years, a grass roots movement has gaining momentum worldwide focusing on initiatives to reduce consumption and encourage the use of reusable bags. It is estimated that only 1 percent of Americans bring their own bags to the grocery store. Some grocery stores encourage reuse of bags by offering a 5-cent-per-bag discount to customers who provide their own.

In January 2002, the South African government required manufacturers to make plastic bags more durable and more expensive to discourage their disposal—prompting a 90-percent reduction in use.

The Republic of Ireland instituted a 15¢-per-bag tax in March 2002. The “PlasTax” has led to a 95-percent reduction in use. Other countries, particularly neighboring Britain, are closely watching this program.

In the U.S. over 30 Alaskan towns have banned the use of plastic grocery bags and it has been reported that New York City is considering a consumer based bag tax modeled after Ireland's successful PlasTax.

Recently the City of San Francisco proposed a 17-cent-per-bag tax on plastic retail shopping bags in an effort to reduce their environmental impact. It would have been the U.S.'s first such tax. Instead, the city, the plastic bag industry and grocers signed a recycling pact calling for plastic bag makers and grocers to reduce bag use in San Francisco food stores by some 20 percent by the end of 2006. Grocers must cut plastic bag use and implement recycling programs in stores. The plastic bag industry has to spend \$100,000 on a public education campaign to promote reduction and recycling. In turn, the city agreed to not pursue a bag tax through 2006 and to try to start a plastic bag curbside recycling program.

As a result of the efforts made by the City of San Francisco and several other California communities, many of major plastic bag manufacturers came together to create a organization called the Progressive Bag Alliance (PBA). The mission of the PBA is assure that plastic bags are recycled, reused and disposed of properly, help to create additional recycling infrastructure and programs, work with retailers to help with their participation in recycling programs and publicizing these efforts to attract greater attention and participation from the consumers who use their products. PBA is also focused on increasing bag-to-bag recycling through support of curbside collection and at-store recycling. PBA also educates grocers about the proper use and packing of plastic bags and works with policy makers, community organizations and others on anti-litter programs. One of the first municipal programs that the PBA has been involved with is taking place in the City of San Juan Capistrano. The City has incorporated plastic bag recycling into its existing curbside collection program. The PBA has helped in creating a public education campaign to inform residents how to properly prepare their plastic bags for recycling.

In 2004, The State of Rhode Island Resource Recovery Corporation (RIRRC) instituted the first statewide plastic bag recycling program. Dubbed ReStore, the program was launched in 51 select grocery stores throughout the state. Plastic bags are collected at the stores and then picked up for no charge by a company that avoids disposal costs for their pallet wrap waste by delivering both their material along with the plastic bags they collect from the grocery stores to the RIRRC operated recycling facility. The initial investment to start the program was \$400,000 and was underwritten by the State Food Dealer Association. The plastic bags are then marketed to Trex Co. to be made into plastic decking material. To date the program has yet to break even on their initial investment. However in 2006 the RIRRC intended to launch a advertising campaign to encourage Rhode Island residents to embrace ReStore and make recycling plastic bags second nature.

Conclusion

Reduction, recycling and education initiatives can be effective in changing consumer behavior and may lead to reducing blowing litter in our communities, however, film plastics will most likely continue to be prevalent in the waste stream in the form of, trash bags, miscellaneous packaging materials and contaminated film plastics. Inevitably these wastes will continue to be susceptible to blowing thus causing litter in the surrounding areas adjacent to the landfills. However, SWALCO believes that by implementing all or some of the recommended actions, our efforts can have a positive impact on reducing the volume of plastic bags that are disposed of in our landfills.

**THE SOLID WASTE AGENCY OF LAKE COUNTY
PLASTIC BAG RECYCLING ACTION PLAN
AGENDA
AUGUST 2006**

SWALCO recommends that our members support the following actions.

1. The passage of a resolution that supports the reduction of plastic bag litter by establishing recycling programs with retailers and waste haulers so to recover and recycle plastic bags and offer alternatives to the use of plastic bags. SWALCO will assist members in developing the instructions to recycle bags as part of the residential recycling program.
2. Amending the Agency Capacity Agreement with Waste Management Recycle America so to include plastic bags as an acceptable Recyclable Material.
3. Amend members' waste and recycling hauling contracts so to allow for the inclusion of plastic bags in their recycling program. SWALCO staff will assist members in this endeavor.
4. Direct the legislative Committee to amend the SWALCO Legislative Policy to develop a legislative proposal to require retailer, who provide plastic bags to their customers, to collect and recycle the plastic bags that are returned to them by their customers.
5. The Agency work cooperatively with the Lake County Health Department's Department of Environmental Health Solid Waste Program to develop and implement a countywide education program, to promote and encourage residents to recycle there plastic bags. This effort would involve using materials that have been developed by the Progressive Bag Alliance and funded in part through a grant from the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity.

RESOLUTION 2006-03 OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

A Resolution to Reduce Plastic Bag Litter

WHEREAS, the Lake County Illinois Solid Waste Management Plan (Plan) was the first Solid Waste Management Plan adopted and updated in the State of Illinois; and

WHEREAS, the Solid Waste Agency of Lake County, Illinois, (Agency) was formed to implement the Plan; and

WHEREAS, this Agency is a municipal Joint Action Agency comprised of 40 municipalities including Great Lakes Naval Training Center, and Lake County; and

WHEREAS, the Plan supports activities that expand the capabilities of diverting marketable materials from landfills when feasible; and

WHEREAS, the Agency encourages its members to work closely with their residents and local businesses to actively participate in voluntarily recycling and waste reduction efforts; and

WHEREAS, the Agency recognizes that plastic bags are a source of litter at landfills and within our communities; and

WHEREAS, the Agency has determined that plastic bags can be effectively recycled through collection programs provided by retail sales stores and additionally through municipal recycling programs; and

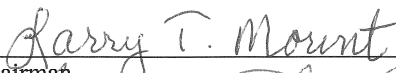
WHEREAS, the Agency believes that customers should be given a choice as to the type of bags they receive their goods in, including the option of paper, plastic or purchasing and or utilizing a reusable bag or container.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Solid Waste Agency of Lake County, Illinois that we do, in unison, most respectfully request that all retail sales establishments that furnish customers with plastic bags, to institute a program whereby customers can return plastic bags back to the retail sales establishments and they shall accept them and assure that they are recycled; and


BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that all retail sales establishments, that furnish customers with plastic bags, also provide customers the option of receiving their goods in either a paper bag or plastic bag and offer customers the option to purchase a reusable bag or container; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Agency Member waste haulers shall provide for residents to recycle plastic bags through there existing recycling program.

DATED, at Grayslake, Lake County, Illinois on this 24th day of August 2006.



Chairman



Secretary

Appendix 3

Senate Bill 303 and its subsequent Amendments from the 95th General Assembly of the Illinois
Legislature

SB0303



95TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

State of Illinois

2007 and 2008

SB0303

Introduced 2/7/2007, by Sen. Terry Link

SYNOPSIS AS INTRODUCED:

415 ILCS 5/22.23c new

Amends the Environmental Protection Act. Creates the Plastic Carryout Bag Recycling Program. Requires retailers that distribute plastic carryout bags to consumers to implement a plastic carryout bag collection and recycling program. Sets out plastic carryout bag recycling program requirements. Provides that retailers subject to these provisions shall maintain records detailing the collection, transport, and recycling of plastic carryout bags distributed by the retailer. Provides that any manufacturer of plastic carryout bags shall develop educational marketing materials to encourage the reusing and recycling of plastic carryout bags, and shall make those materials available to retailers.

LRB095 08890 CMK 29077 b

FISCAL NOTE ACT
MAY APPLY

A BILL FOR

Appendix 3

Senate Bill 303 and its subsequent Amendments from the 95th General Assembly of the Illinois
Legislature

SB0303

LRB095 08890 CMK 29077 b

1 AN ACT concerning safety.

2 **Be it enacted by the People of the State of Illinois,**
3 **represented in the General Assembly:**

4 Section 5. The Environmental Protection Act is amended by
5 adding Section 22.23c as follows:

6 (415 ILCS 5/22.23c new)

7 Sec. 22.23c. Plastic Carryout Bag Recycling Program.

8 (a) As used in this Section:

9 "Consumer" means any person who makes a purchase at
10 retail for any purpose other than resale.

11 "Distributing plastic carryout bags to consumers"
12 means the act of a retailer giving to a consumer a plastic
13 carryout bag to store or transport goods purchased at
14 retail.

15 "Plastic carryout bag" means any plastic, latex, or
16 polypropylene bag.

17 "Purchase at retail" means the acquisition of the
18 ownership of or title to tangible personal property through
19 a sale at retail.

20 "Retailer" means a person engaged in the business of
21 making sales at retail that owns or controls more than
22 10,000 square feet of retail space that generates
23 occupation or use tax revenue.

Appendix 3

Senate Bill 303 and its subsequent Amendments from the 95th General Assembly of the Illinois
Legislature

SB0303

- 2 -

LRB095 08890 CMK 29077 b

1 "Reusable bag" means (i) a bag made of cloth or other
2 machine washable fabric that has handles, or (ii) a durable
3 plastic bag with handles that is at least 2.25 mils thick
4 and is specifically designed and manufactured for multiple
5 uses.

6 (b) By July 1, 2008, all retailers distributing plastic
7 carryout bags to consumers as part of a purchase at retail
8 shall:

9 (1) implement a plastic carryout bag collection
10 program that facilitates the return and recycling of
11 plastic carryout bags distributed to consumers;

12 (2) provide a clearly marked receptacle for the
13 collection of plastic carryout bags that is in a convenient
14 location for that retailer's consumers;

15 (3) arrange for the pick-up, transport, and recycling
16 of plastic carryout bags deposited in the collection
17 receptacles by consumers; and

18 (4) make reusable bags available for purchase by
19 consumers, as an alternative to plastic carryout bags.

20 (c) Any plastic carryout bag distributed to consumers must
21 have a message printed on the bag, in a manner clearly visible
22 to the consumer, stating that a collection bin is available at
23 the retail location for the purpose of collecting and recycling
24 plastic carryout bags.

25 (d) Retailers subject to the provisions of this Section
26 shall maintain records detailing the collection, transport,

Appendix 3

Senate Bill 303 and its subsequent Amendments from the 95th General Assembly of the Illinois
Legislature

SB0303

- 3 -

LRB095 08890 CMK 29077 b

1 and recycling of plastic carryout bags distributed by the
2 retailer. The records must be kept for a minimum of 3 years and
3 must be made available, upon request, to the Environmental
4 Protection Agency or the entity with local jurisdiction over
5 creating a Solid Waste Management Plan pursuant to the Solid
6 Waste Planning and Recycling Act.
7 (e) All manufacturers of plastic carryout bags in this
8 State shall develop educational marketing materials to
9 encourage the reusing and recycling of plastic carryout bags
10 and shall make those materials available to retailers required
11 to comply with this Section.
12

Appendix 3

Senate Bill 303 and its subsequent Amendments from the 95th General Assembly of the Illinois Legislature



Sen. Terry Link

Filed: 2/28/2007

09500SB0303sam001

LRB095 08890 CMK 31968 a

1 AMENDMENT TO SENATE BILL 303

2 AMENDMENT NO. _____. Amend Senate Bill 303 by replacing
3 everything after the enacting clause with the following:

4 "Section 1. Short title. This Act may be cited as the
5 Plastic Bag Recycling Act.

6 Section 5. Definitions. As used in this Act:

7 "Agency" means the Illinois Environmental Protection
8 Agency.

9 "Consumer" means any person who makes a purchase at retail
10 for any purpose other than resale.

11 "Distributing plastic bags to consumers" means the act of a
12 retailer giving to a consumer a plastic bag to store or
13 transport goods purchased at retail.

14 "Plastic bag" means any plastic, latex, or polypropylene
15 bag.

16 "Purchase at retail" means the acquisition of the ownership

Appendix 3

Senate Bill 303 and its subsequent Amendments from the 95th General Assembly of the Illinois Legislature

09500SB0303sam001

-2-

LRB095 08890 CMK 31968 a

1 of or title to tangible personal property through a sale at
2 retail.

3 "Retailer" means a person engaged in the business of making
4 sales at retail that owns or controls more than 10,000 square
5 feet of retail space in Lake County.

6 Section 10. Recycling pilot program in Lake County.

7 (a) Within 90 days after the first meeting of the Plastic
8 Bag Recycling Task Force, the Task Force shall promulgate
9 procedures and guidelines implementing a voluntary plastic bag
10 recycling pilot program for retailers in Lake County. The
11 Agency shall administer the pilot program under the procedures
12 and guidelines adopted by the Task Force.

13 Beginning August 1, 2007, retailers, as defined by Section
14 5 of this Act, that are participating in the pilot program and
15 distributing plastic bags to consumers free of charge as part
16 of a purchase at retail may:

17 (1) implement a plastic bag collection program that
18 facilitates the return and recycling of plastic bags
19 distributed to consumers by that retailer;

20 (2) provide a clearly marked receptacle for the
21 collection of plastic bags that is in a convenient location
22 for that retailer's consumers; and

23 (3) arrange for the pick-up, transport, and recycling
24 of plastic bags deposited in the collection receptacles by
25 consumers.

Appendix 3

Senate Bill 303 and its subsequent Amendments from the 95th General Assembly of the Illinois Legislature

09500SB0303sam001

-3-

LRB095 08890 CMK 31968 a

1 (b) In meeting the pilot program guidelines, retailers may
2 work individually or as part of a group.

3 (c) The provisions of this Section are subject to
4 appropriation.

5 Section 15. Task Force.

6 (a) The Plastic Bag Recycling Task Force is created. The
7 Task Force shall consist of one legislator appointed by each of
8 the following: the President of the Senate, the Minority Leader
9 of the Senate, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, and
10 the Minority Leader of the House of Representatives; 3
11 representatives of a statewide association exclusively
12 representing retailers; and one representative from each of the
13 following:

14 (1) a plastic film recycler;

15 (2) an entity operating as a recycling operator of
16 Material Recovery Facilities receiving material from Lake
17 County; the entity shall be agreed upon by a representative
18 of the statewide association exclusively representing
19 retailers and a representative of the Solid Waste Agency of
20 Lake County;

21 (3) a national waste hauler operating in Lake County
22 appointed by a national group representing solid waste
23 management entities;

24 (4) the Solid Waste Agency of Lake County;

25 (5) the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency; and

Appendix 3

Senate Bill 303 and its subsequent Amendments from the 95th General Assembly of the Illinois Legislature

09500SB0303sam001

-4-

LRB095 08890 CMK 31968 a

1 (6) the Lake County Board.

2 Within 90 days after the effective date of this Act the
3 Plastic Bag Recycling Task Force shall be formed. The Task
4 Force shall meet at least twice a year. The Agency shall chair
5 the meetings and facilitate the Task Force.

6 (b) On or before March 1, 2011, the Task Force, in
7 collaboration with the Agency, shall compile and submit a
8 report to the Governor, the President of the Senate, the
9 Minority Leader of the Senate, the Speaker of the House of
10 Representatives, and the Minority Leader of the House of
11 Representatives, discussing, but not limited to, the following
12 topics:

13 (1) enrollment in the pilot program;

14 (2) benefits and costs to the environment, retailers,
15 residents of Lake County;

16 (3) cost-benefit analysis of the pilot program;

17 (4) any burden suffered as a result of the pilot
18 program; and

19 (5) any unforeseen transportation issues, liability,
20 or costs for participants in the pilot program.

21 Section 90. Repealer. This Act is repealed June 1, 2011."

Senate Bill 303 and its subsequent Amendments from the 95th General Assembly of the Illinois Legislature



LRB095 08890 CMK 34110 a

1 AMENDMENT TO SENATE BILL 303

2 AMENDMENT NO. _____. Amend Senate Bill 303, AS AMENDED,
3 with reference to page and line numbers of Senate Amendment No.
4 1, as follows:

5 on page 2, line 13, by replacing "Beginning August 1, 2007,
6 retailers" with "Retailers"; and

7 on page 2, line 16, by replacing "may" with "must"; and

8 on page 3, by deleting lines 15 through 23; and

9 on page 3, line 24, by replacing "(4)" with "(2)"; and

10 on page 3, line 25, by replacing "(5)" with "(3)"; and

11 on page 4, line 1, by replacing "(6)" with "(4)"; and

Appendix 3

Senate Bill 303 and its subsequent Amendments from the 95th General Assembly of the Illinois Legislature

09500SB0303sam002

-2-

LRB095 08890 CMK 34110 a

- 1 on page 4, line 6, by replacing "2011" with "2010"; and
- 2 on page 4, line 21, by replacing "2011" with "2010".

Public Act 095-0268

SB0303 Enrolled

LRB095 08890 CMK 29077 b

AN ACT concerning safety.

**Be it enacted by the People of the State of Illinois,
represented in the General Assembly:**

Section 1. Short title. This Act may be cited as the
Plastic Bag Recycling Act.

Section 5. Definitions. As used in this Act:

"Agency" means the Illinois Environmental Protection
Agency.

"Consumer" means any person who makes a purchase at retail
for any purpose other than resale.

"Distributing plastic bags to consumers" means the act of a
retailer giving to a consumer a plastic bag to store or
transport goods purchased at retail.

"Plastic bag" means any plastic, latex, or polypropylene
bag.

"Purchase at retail" means the acquisition of the ownership
of or title to tangible personal property through a sale at
retail.

"Retailer" means a person engaged in the business of making
sales at retail that owns or controls more than 10,000 square
feet of retail space in Lake County.

Section 10. Recycling pilot program in Lake County.

Public Act 095-0268

SB0303 Enrolled

LRB095 08890 CMK 29077 b

(a) Within 90 days after the first meeting of the Plastic Bag Recycling Task Force, the Task Force shall promulgate procedures and guidelines implementing a voluntary plastic bag recycling pilot program for retailers in Lake County. The Agency shall administer the pilot program under the procedures and guidelines adopted by the Task Force.

Retailers, as defined by Section 5 of this Act, that are participating in the pilot program and distributing plastic bags to consumers free of charge as part of a purchase at retail must:

(1) implement a plastic bag collection program that facilitates the return and recycling of plastic bags distributed to consumers by that retailer;

(2) provide a clearly marked receptacle for the collection of plastic bags that is in a convenient location for that retailer's consumers; and

(3) arrange for the pick-up, transport, and recycling of plastic bags deposited in the collection receptacles by consumers.

(b) In meeting the pilot program guidelines, retailers may work individually or as part of a group.

(c) The provisions of this Section are subject to appropriation.

Section 15. Task Force.

(a) The Plastic Bag Recycling Task Force is created. The

Public Act 095-0268

SB0303 Enrolled

LRB095 08890 CMK 29077 b

Task Force shall consist of one legislator appointed by each of the following: the President of the Senate, the Minority Leader of the Senate, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, and the Minority Leader of the House of Representatives; 3 representatives of a statewide association exclusively representing retailers; and one representative from each of the following:

- (1) a plastic film recycler;
- (2) the Solid Waste Agency of Lake County;
- (3) the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency; and
- (4) the Lake County Board.

Within 90 days after the effective date of this Act the Plastic Bag Recycling Task Force shall be formed. The Task Force shall meet at least twice a year. The Agency shall chair the meetings and facilitate the Task Force.

(b) On or before March 1, 2010, the Task Force, in collaboration with the Agency, shall compile and submit a report to the Governor, the President of the Senate, the Minority Leader of the Senate, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, and the Minority Leader of the House of Representatives, discussing, but not limited to, the following topics:

- (1) enrollment in the pilot program;
- (2) benefits and costs to the environment, retailers, residents of Lake County;
- (3) cost-benefit analysis of the pilot program;

[

Public Act 095-0268

SB0303 Enrolled

LRB095 08890 CMK 29077 b

(4) any burden suffered as a result of the pilot program; and

(5) any unforeseen transportation issues, liability, or costs for participants in the pilot program.

Section 90. Repealer. This Act is repealed June 1, 2010.

Plastic Bag Task Members
July 8, 2008

Mr. Peter Adrian
SWALCO
1311 N. Estes St.
Gurnee, IL 60031

Mr. Robert Render
Maine Plastics, Inc.
1817 Kenosha Rd
Zion, IL 60099

The Honorable Sandy Cole
House of Representatives
137 South Center Suite 2
Grayslake, IL 60030

Ms. Tanya Triche, Staff Attorney
Illinois Retail Merchants Association
19 S. LaSalle, Suite 300
Chicago, IL 60603

Mr. John E. Cortesi, President & CEO
Sunset Foods
777 Central Ave.
Highland Park, IL 60035

Mr. David Walters
Illinois EPA
1021 N. Grand Avenue East
Springfield, IL 62794

The Honorable Kathy Ryg
House of Representatives
50 Lakeview Parkway Suite 114
Vernon Hills, IL 60061

The Honorable Terry Link
State Senator
906 Muir Avenue
Lake Bluff, IL 60044

Ms. Ann Maine
County Board Member
18 N. County Street 10th Floor
Waukegan, IL 60085

The Honorable William Peterson
State Senator
3050 North Main Street
Buffalo Grove, IL 60089

Mr. Scott Reed, National Manager
Waste Minimization, Environmental Services
Target
33 S. 6th St, TCC-3735
Minneapolis, MN 55402

Public Act 095-0268
Plastic Bag Recycling Task Force
July 8, 2008

SWALCO Office
1311 North Estes Street
Gurnee, Illinois

Agenda 10:00 a.m.

Introductions

- I. PA 095-0268 David Walters
 - a. History
 - b. Pilot Program
 - c. Task Force
- II. Current Plastic Bag Recycling in Lake County Pete Adrian
 - a. Current Collections
 - b. End Markets/Transportation
- III. Other Regulations/Bans Pete Adrian
 - a. City of Chicago
 - b. California
 - c. New York City
- III. Task Force Report David Walters
 - a. Enrollment in the Pilot Program
 - b. Benefits and Costs to the Environment
 - c. Cost-Benefit Analysis
 - d. Burdens Suffered as a Result of the Pilot Program
 - e. Transportation issues, Liability or Costs for Participation

Next Meeting?

Lake County Plastic Bag Recycling Task Force November 18, 2008

Maine Plastics, Inc.
1817 Kenosha Road
Zion, IL 60099
847-379-9100

Agenda 10:30 AM

Welcome and Introductions

Tour of Maine Plastics (<u>no open toe shoes</u>)	Robert Render
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Lake County Retailers >10,000 sq. ft.	Tanya Triche
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Target Plastic Bag Communication Pieces	Scott Reed
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Pilot Collection Protocol	Pete Adrian
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Next Steps	David Walters
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Next Meeting?

Lake County Plastic Bag Recycling Task Force January 21, 2009

Sunset Foods (Lake Forest)
825 S. Waukegan Road
Lake Forest, IL 60045
847 234-8380

Agenda 10:30 AM

Welcome and Introductions

Tour of Sunset Foods Bag Collection Process	John Cortesi
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Follow-up on Letter Sent to Retailers on 12/9	Tanya Triche
---	--------------

Discuss Survey to Retailers	Pete Adrian
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Update Pilot Collection Timeline, Budget Materials, Staffing, Collection Process.	Pete Adrian
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Next Steps

Next Meeting?

Lake County Plastic Bag Recycling Task Force 10:00 a.m. Wednesday, April 15, 2009

SWALCO
1311 North Estes Street
Gurnee, Illinois

Agenda

1. Discuss the results of the retailer survey and select the retailers that will be participating in the pilot
2. Review revised pilot program timeline
3. Discuss the program budget
4. Discuss proposed pilot program kickoff media event and or other pilot program promotion efforts
5. Discuss possibility of Student Intern
6. Next Steps

Future Meetings

**Lake County Plastic Bag Recycling Task Force
Tuesday, December 8, 2009
1:00 P.M.**

SWALCO Office
1311 North Estes Street
Gurnee, Illinois

Agenda

1. Overview of July 20th Media Event.
2. Pilot Plan Update / Status
3. Discuss outline & format for Task Force Final Report
4. Discuss replacement possibilities for lost Task Force members
5. Schedule next meeting (February)

**Illinois Plastic Bag Recycling Task Force
Guidelines and Procedures for implementing a voluntary
At-Store plastic bag recycling pilot program for
retailers in Lake County**

**DRAFT
Revised - November 20, 2008**

Overview

The Illinois Plastic Bag Task Force recognizes that *at-store* collection of plastic bags affords residents the opportunity to recycle bags as well as many other different types of plastic film wrap – materials that otherwise wouldn't have outlets for recycling. Plastics are a valuable resource that should not be wasted. Various markets exist for plastic film scrap (e.g., toilet paper wrap, newspaper bags, and dry cleaning bags) and those markets can turn scrap plastic into new products.

The Task Force also believes the most efficient way to increase recycling of film plastic bags is to expand and promote *at-store* collection programs through a multi stakeholder recycling campaign.

At-store collection points offer an efficient, source separated method of recovery that does not add costs to municipal recycling programs, which have been primarily designed to collect containers and fiber. *At-store* collection is seen as a convenient recovery method for both the public and retailers since consumers can easily return plastic bags during their shopping trips. And, since many retailers generate their own stream of recyclable film (e.g., stretch wrap), the collection program can accommodate both bags and film wraps that may have otherwise been wasted.

Involving retailers in recycling increases the opportunity to educate the general public about using materials more responsibly: avoid littering, conserve resources, reuse bags and then recycle them.

Pilot At-Store Campaign Objective

The Goal of the pilot *at-store* campaign is to pull together various stakeholders (listed below) in order to raise consumer awareness about plastic bag recycling and its availability in Lake County in order to increase the recovery and recycling of plastic bags. Since the retail environment is the main point of distribution of plastic bags, at store promotion of bag conservation and plastic bag recycling is key.

The Task Force intends to engage both retailers, that currently collect plastic bags, and those that are not yet collecting plastic bags from their customers. *At-store* campaign materials (as developed by the Plastic Bag Affiliates and other Task Force Stakeholders) will be utilized and provided to new *At-store* campaign participants, while those retailers, that have established plastic bag recycling programs, may choose to use their existing collection containers and or replace or supplement what they have with additional *at-store* campaign materials. Additionally, various back-of-house collection methods will be utilized to determine best practices.

A successful *at-store* campaign includes information for consumers and provides education to store employees to increase public participation in the recovery of bags and other recyclable film material. Many consumers are unaware of the following:

- Where they can recycle their plastic bags and wraps
- What to recycle (e.g., grocery bags, toilet paper/paper towel wrap, dry cleaning bags, food and beverage case wraps, etc.)
- What bags get recycled into (e.g., composite decking, lumber products, new bags)

Retail store employees must be educated to provide information about bag recycling, and also be trained in more efficient bagging techniques, to reduce wasteful use of plastic bags (e.g. one item in a bag, double bagging). Lake County retailers have the opportunity to distinguish themselves as environmental stewards by early involvement in an *at-store* recycling campaign.

At-Store Campaign Details

Stakeholders

Planning for the pilot campaign should involve input from the following stakeholders including cost sharing and sweat equity:

- Retailers & Grocers (IRMA)
- Suppliers and Vendors
- End Markets/Recyclers
- Government (SWALCO & IEPA)
- Chambers of Commerce
- Plastic Bag Affiliates (American Chemistry Council etc.)

Assessment of Current Retail Recycling Programs

Through the assistance of the stakeholders, the Task Force should identify the following:

- Retailers in Lake County that are willing to participate in the pilot at-store campaign
- Types of materials the retailers currently recycle
- Markets that are taking the retailers recycling
- Volume of materials the retailers recycle (recovery rates)
- Current at-store messaging (if any)
- Type of bins used; placement and signage at bin; frequency of collection
- Method in which recyclable materials are being handled/managed in the store
- Information about existing programs to better understand what is unique about their recycling program and their education efforts
- local community efforts to promote recycling

Development and Use of Promotional Material

Through the assistance of the stakeholders, the Task Force should provide the following to the pilot *at-store* campaign participants:

- Collection Equipment
 - Recycling bin
 - Collection bags
- Merchandizing Materials
 - Employee pin (good tool, will need management to insist cashiers wear them and understand the program)
 - Various Signage:

- ✓ Poster in window to allow visibility from parking lot
- ✓ Wall or overhead sign at bag collection bin
- ✓ Decal for top of bin
- ✓ Sticker with message about bag recycling at check out stands
- Training Support
 - In-store training materials (for “front” and “back” of house)
 - Bagger training tips
 - Cashier training – inform/remind consumers that the store provides plastic bag recycling and that they should bring all unneeded clean plastic film back for recycling

Implementation

Through the assistance of the stakeholders, the Task Force should manage and support the following:

Promotion

- Write Articles/Press Releases promoting the pilot and recognizing its participants
- Public Service Announcements for local radio, cable TV, newspapers, government and community organizations
- Produce an insert for utility bills
- Produce a door hanger to distribute to homes by local groups or clubs
- Produce a video or slide show to air on cable TV and retailer checkout lanes monitors

Evaluation

- Track enrolment in the pilot program
- Quantify the benefits and costs to the environment, retailers and residents of Lake County
- Provide a cost-benefit analysis of the pilot program
- Document any burden suffered as a result of the pilot
- Describe any unforeseen transportation issues, liability, or costs for participants in the pilot program
- Was there an increase in plastic bag recycling volume after recycling promotion
- Consumer responses to questions (in person or via an on line survey) ask consumers:
 - ✓ Did they see any of the promotion/education around plastic bag recycling?
 - ✓ Did a cashier tell them anything about availability of recycling?
 - ✓ Did they notice if their bags were packed better?
 - ✓ Do they use reusable bags? Do they remember to bring them? How?
 - ✓ Do they bring back their bags for recycling? How often?

Costs/Staff work

- Need to itemize costs
- Need to assess which stakeholders will pay for which costs
- Need to determine and delegate specific duties to stakeholders or staff

Timeline

(Estimated)

- December 2008

Appendix 6

DRAFT Illinois Plastic Bag Recycling Task Force Guidelines and Procedures

- Finalize plan design
 - Develop solicitation letter and application
 - Evaluate staffing needs
 - Evaluate material and supply needs
- January 2009
 - Solicit for participants
 - Solicit support from back end vendors
 - Develop data collection and evaluation tools
 - Secure additional project personnel
- February 2009
 - Review and select participants
 - Meet with participant management
 - Develop retail training program and materials
 - Begin development of consumer education information
 - Develop web bag recycling page
 - Compile baseline information from active programs
 - Solicit for clubs and organizations to help with door hanger drive
 - Plan kickoff media event
- March 2009
 - Finalize back end management processes
 - Begin distributing participant employee training program
 - Complete development of consumer education information
 - Distribute collection equipment and merchandizing materials
 - Publicize kickoff media event
 - Launch bag recycling web site
- April 2009
 - Release PSA's to media
 - Hold kickoff media event
 - Launch all at-store campaigns
 - Launch door hanger campaign
 - Conduct consumer surveys
 - Track recovery rates
 - Meet with participant management to provide and gather feedback
 - Meet with back end management to provide and gather feedback
 - Meet with participant employees to supplement training and gather feedback
- May 2009
 - Continue to support marketing and merchandising campaign
 - Continue to perform consumer surveys
 - Continue to track recovery rates
 - Continue to periodically meet with participant management for feedback
 - Continue to meet with back end management to provide and gather feedback
 - Continue to meet with participant employees to supplement training and gather feedback
 - Provide media with progress reports
 - Begin to prepare end of campaign survey and measurement materials
- June 2009
 - Continue to support marketing and merchandising campaign
 - Continue to perform consumer surveys
 - Continue to track recovery rates
 - Continue to periodically meet with participant management for feedback
 - Continue to meet with back end management to provide and gather feedback

Appendix 6

DRAFT Illinois Plastic Bag Recycling Task Force Guidelines and Procedures

- Continue to meet with participant employees to supplement training and gather feedback
 - Provide media with progress reports
- July 2009
 - Continue to perform consumer surveys
 - Continue to track recovery rates
 - Meet with participant management for feedback and campaign wrap up
 - Continue to meet with back end management to provide and gather feedback
 - Meet with participant employees to gather feedback
 - Provide media with progress reports
- August 2009
 - Continue to perform consumer surveys
 - Continue to track recovery rates
 - Meet with participant management to determine continued support
 - Meet with back end management to determine continued support
- September 2009
 - Continue to track recovery rates
 - Provide media with progress report and recognize participants
 - Adjust PSA's to reflect participants that continue to collect plastic bags
 - Compile and evaluate consumer, management and employee survey responses
- October 2009
 - Compile and evaluate recovery rates
 - Begin to draft the Task Force final report
- November 2009
 - Complete draft the Task Force final report
 - Submit draft of the final report to the Task Force for comment
- December 2009
 - Receive and review Task Force comments
 - Incorporate Task Force comment into the final report
- January 2010
 - Submit final report to the Task Force for approval
- February 2010
 - Submit final report to the Plastic Bag Recycling Task Force to the Governor, the president of the Senate, the Minority Leader of the Senate, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, and the Minority Leader of the House of representatives

RECYCLE

CLEAN, DRY, EMPTY PLASTIC BAGS & FILM PACKAGING



- newspaper bags
- dry cleaning bags
- bread bags
- produce bags
- toilet paper, napkin, and paper towel wraps
- furniture wrap
- electronic wrap
- plastic retail bags
(hard plastic and string handles removed)
- grocery bags
- zip lock bags (remove hard components)
- cereal box liners
- Tyvek (no glue, labels, other material)
- diaper wrap (packaging)
- plastic shipping envelopes (remove labels)
- case wrap (e.g., snacks, water bottles)
- All clean, dry bags labeled #2 or #4.

X NO frozen food bags or prewashed salad mix bags
X NO bio-based or degradable bags



new bags and packaging





composite lumber & construction materials

For more information visit www.plasticbagrecycling.org

Appendix 7

Samples of promotional and educational materials provided by the American Chemistry Council

STRATEGIES FOR PLASTIC BAG AND FILM RECOVERY GROCERY & RETAIL AT-STORE DROP-OFFS OR PLASTIC FILM FROM BUSINESSES

1. Train employees to identify what films are recyclable:

Recycle plastic grocery and retail bags, stretch or pallet wrap, newspaper bags, or film that is labeled with #2 or #4.



AVOID food wrap (e.g. Saran Wrap) and any film that has had direct contact with food or any organic material.

2. Identify the estimated quantity of film generated per month—loose film averages 24 lbs/cu.yd. To access an online calculator tool to estimate amounts generated, go to www.plasticbagrecycling.org.

3. Once you determine the amount of film and bags your business generates, **ask your hauler if they accept loose film for recycling**—alone or with cardboard.

4. You will need to collect and compact film for pick up. Use clear #4 plastic bags and clear bins with bold signage to designate recycling. If your volume is high, it might make sense to invest in a baler and consider backhauling to a central distribution center. For assistance, contact 888-753-7485.



5. If you set out bins for customers to recycle bags, be sure to **include clear signage** at the bin opening so customers know that it's for recycling—not garbage.

6. Place recycling bins near main entrance for convenient customer access.

7. Assign a designated staff person to monitor recycling bins: empty bins regularly and remove contamination.

8. Plan how to consolidate material. Move material from customer drop off point to designated bins in the back of your business for storage. Make sure employees know storage bin is for recycling—not waste. (Employees often accidentally throw trash into bags of film that are left out for recycling.)

9. Store consolidated bags and film material in a clean, dry place.

10. Call or email for information about signage.



11. Keep employees informed on how the recycling program is going and how much film is being recycled. Congratulate them on their contributions to the program.

12. Re-educate employees annually and **ALWAYS** educate new employees.

For additional information, including markets, film identification, and signage go to www.plasticbagrecycling.org.

For personal assistance, please call 888-753-7485 or email help@plasticbagrecycling.org



Recovering plastic bags and film is a great way to save money and help your community meet recycling goals.

Plastic Film and Bag RECYCLING FACTS

- Using paper bags doubles the amount of CO₂ produced versus using plastic bags.¹
- Plastic bag production uses less than 4 percent of the water needed to make paper bags.²
- Using paper bags creates almost 5 times more solid waste than using plastic bags.¹
- The dominant end use for recycled plastic film/bags is composite decking.³
- In 2006 more than 812 million pounds of plastic film and bags were recycled which is enough feed stock to manufacture nearly 1,500,000 composite lumber decks.⁴

www.trex.com

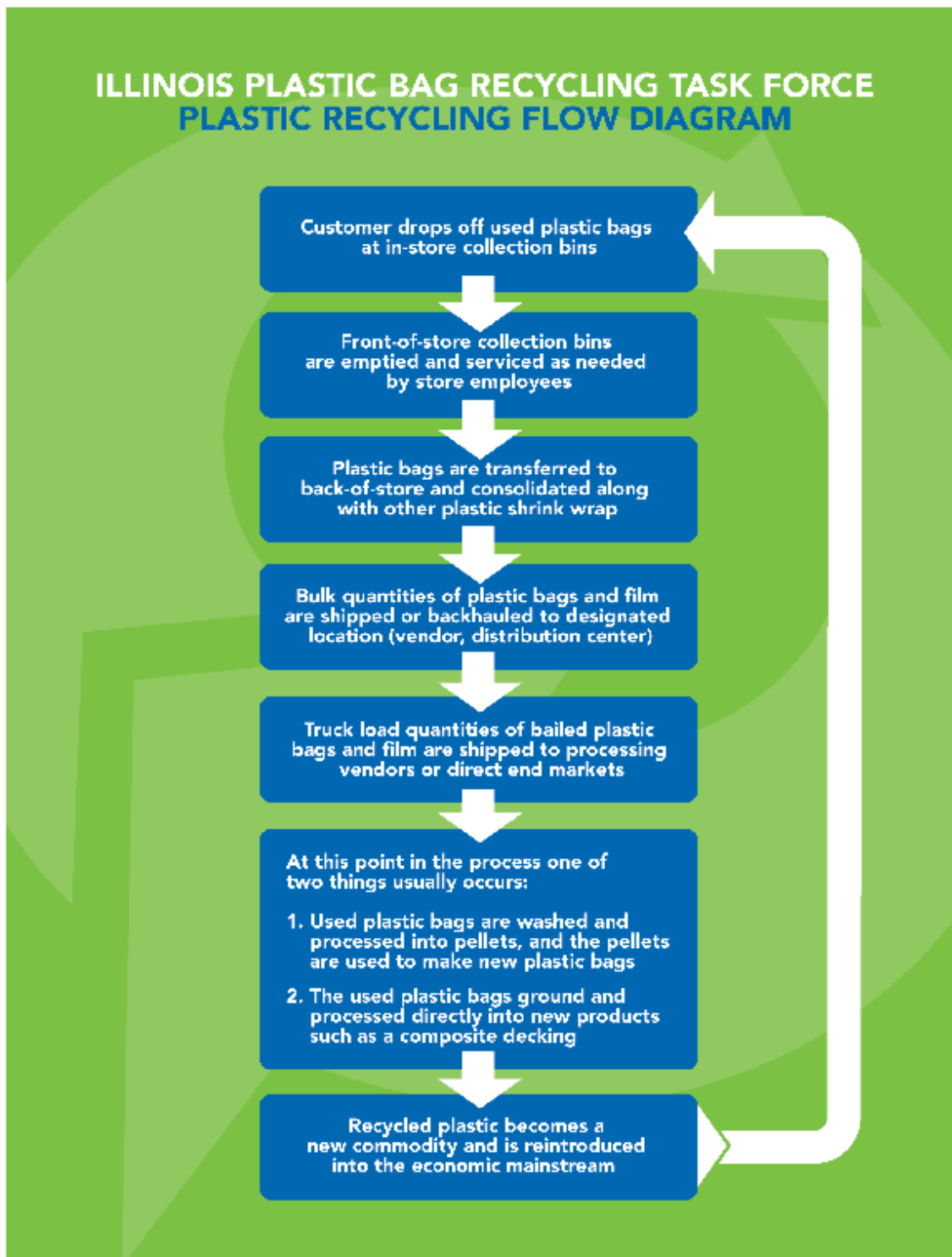


1. Southead Consulting, 2007. 2. Swiss Agency for Environment, Forests & Landscape (SARL), 1998 & Southead Consulting, 2005. 3. Moore Recycling Associates, 2007. 4. Moore Recycling Associates & Trex Corporation, 2007.

For more information including where to recycle and how to set up a recycling program go to www.plasticbagrecycling.org.

www.plasticbagrecycling.org

 American Chemistry Council[®]



Appendix 8

Eligible Lake County Retailers

Type of Store	Business Name	Number of Stores
Discount Stores	Target	7
	K-Mart	3
	Wal Mart	7
	Stein Mart	1
Department Stores	Kohl's	4
	Sears	3
	Carson's	1
	Macy's	1
	JC Penney	2
Home Improvement Stores	Home Depot	8
	Lowe's	2
	Menards	4
	Beesons Nursery	1
	Chicago Brass	1
Hardware Stores	ACE Hardware	12
	True Value Hardware	8
	Do it Best Hardware	4
Electronics Stores	Best Buy	3
	Circuit City	3
Office Supply Stores	Staples	4
	Office Max	4
	Office Depot	5
Book Stores	Borders Books	3
	Barnes & Noble	4
Drug Stores	Walgreens	36
	CVS Pharmacy	10
Grocery Stores	Butera Market	1
	Dominick's	9
	Jewle-Osco	16
	Sunset Foods	3
	Whole Foods	1
	Pigley Wiggly	3
	Garden Fresh Market	2
	Val's Market	1
	Waterstone Market	1
	Franklin's Foods	1
	Super Fresh Market	1
	Fresh Market	2
	Harbor Foods	1
Auto Parts Stores	Trader Joe's	2
	Lewis Market	2
	Pep Boys	2
	Auto Zone	8
Sporting Goods	Murray's Discount Auto	3
	Bass Pro Shop	1
	Dick's Sporting Goods	1
Pet Stores	Erehwon	1
	Pet Smart	3
	Pet Supplies Plus	3
	Petco	4
Total number of stores		213

Appendix 9
Task Force introductory letter to the eligible retailers

December 8, 2008

Name
Company
Address
City, State Zip

Dear Name:

In the past year, several cities, counties and states have enacted a variety of legislation relating to the use and disposal of plastic bags. For example, San Francisco banned retailers from providing plastic bags to their customers, Seattle placed a \$.20 fee on each plastic bag provided by the retailer to customers, and Chicago recently mandated that certain retailers recycle plastic bags. Although similar ideas have been discussed in the Illinois General Assembly, its members decided to better understand plastic bag management options by pursuing a voluntary, at-store plastic bag recycling program, on a pilot basis in Lake County, Illinois.

On January 1, 2008, the Illinois General Assembly enacted the Plastic Bag Recycling Act (P.A. 095-0268). The Act created a task force consisting of elected officials, a government agency, a solid waste planning and management agency, and representatives from the retail and recycling industries, all charged with developing and implementing a voluntary plastic bag recycling pilot program for retailers over 10,000 sq ft in Lake County. Pursuant to the Act, the purpose of the model program is to provide to the Governor and the General Assembly a written report detailing: (1) enrollment in the program; (2) benefits and costs to the environment, retailers, and residents of Lake County; (3) a cost-benefit analysis of the pilot program; (4) any burden suffered as a result of the pilot program; and (5) any unforeseen transportation issues, liability, or costs for participants in the pilot program. The task force is currently in the developing stage of creating the program, and we are meeting to work out its specific details.

By the end of the first quarter of 2009, we will have laid out the foundation for a plastic bag recycling pilot program for retailers over 10,000 sq ft in Lake County. At that point, we will contact retailers again to ask that you review our proposal and ask for your feedback and participation. While the exact parameters and expectations of the Lake County Pilot Program have yet to be finalized, we do know that participating retailers who distribute plastic bags to consumers free of charge as part of a purchase at retail must: (1) implement a plastic bag collection program that facilitates the return and recycling of plastic bags; (2) provide a clearly marked receptacle that is in a convenient location for the collection of plastic bags from consumers; and (3) arrange for the pick-up, transport, and recycling of plastic bags deposited in the collection receptacles by consumers.

Although we understand that some retailers in Lake County are already recycling plastic bags, we encourage you to review our plans, once finalized, and determine whether your company and customer base can benefit from being a part of this initiative. Certainly, the participation of retailers is vital to the program's success, and we are hopeful that this program can teach not only Lake County, but our entire State and eventually our entire country how best to encourage the recycling of plastic bags.

If you have any questions in the interim, please contact Tanya Triche of the Illinois Retail Merchants Association (IRMA) for more information about the task force and the development of the voluntary plastic bag recycling pilot program in Lake County at 312.726.4600.

Sincerely,

The Lake County Plastic Bag Recycling Task Force

Members:

The Honorable Ann Maine
Lake County Board Member

The Honorable Sandy Cole
Illinois House of Representatives

The Honorable Terry Link
Illinois State Senate

The Honorable Kathy Ryg
Illinois House of Representatives

The Honorable William Petersen
Illinois State Senate

Illinois Retail Merchants Association

Maine Plastics, Inc.

Solid Waste Agency of Lake County

Sunset Foods Mart, Inc.

Target Corporation

WEB PAGE VIEW

Voluntary At-Store Plastic Bag Recycling Pilot Program (Lake County, Illinois)

Who are we?

We are retailers, recyclers, members of the Lake County Board, state legislators, the Solid Waste Agency of Lake County, and the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency. We have come together through the passage of Public Act 095-0268 which requires us to develop a voluntary at-store plastic bag recycling pilot program in Lake County, Illinois.

What is our goal?

The goal of the Task Force is to involve multiple stakeholders interested in raising consumer awareness of plastic bag recycling options while developing a successful voluntary at-store plastic bag recycling program.

How can you help?

The program in Lake County seeks to involve retailers over 10,000 sq ft in size in an effort to promote recycling of plastic bags at the store. Each store would have at least one visible collection bin near each entrance specifically for the recycling of plastic bags. Each retailer would be responsible for advertising the program to its customers. The Plastics Division of the American Chemistry Council will provide posters, signage, and other promotional material. Visit www.PlasticBagRecycling.org to view promotional materials. Retailers would also be expected to educate their employees to market the program as well. If retailers already have the ability to ship their bags to a recycler, the Task Force would ask that the retailer use that method. The Task Force will provide technical assistance to retailers in need of recovery solutions.

I already recycle plastic bags in the store. Can I still participate in this program?

Yes. The Task Force welcomes both retailers who are already recycling plastic bags and those who are not currently recycling their bags to participate in its program. For those retailers that are presently recycling, the Task Force would ask you to provide to it some information regarding the number and/or weight of the bags recycled. For all other retailers we would work on establishing the recycling program as well as keeping track of the aforementioned metrics.

How long will the pilot program last?

The program will begin on May 1, 2009 and continue through December 1, 2009, at which time, the task force is required to create a report detailing the program and its progress which will be submitted to the Governor and leaders of the Illinois General Assembly by March 1, 2010. By completing the attached survey by March 20, 2009, you are helping the Task Force develop information that it will need to complete its report to the General Assembly. You will also be asked if your company would like to participate. If you answer affirmatively, we will contact you with next steps. Thank you for your time and consideration of this effort.

The Lake County Plastic Bags Task Force:

The Honorable Ann Maine, Lake County Board Member

The Honorable Sandy Cole , Illinois House of Representatives

The Honorable Terry Link , Illinois State Senate

The Honorable Kathy Ryg, Illinois House of Representatives

Illinois Retail Merchants Association

Maine Plastics, Inc.

Solid Waste Agency of Lake County

Sunset Foods Mart, Inc.

Target Corporation

Contact Tanya Triche of the Illinois Retail Merchants Association if you have any further questions at: 312.726.4600.

Appendix 11
Summary of eligible retailers survey responses

Type of Store	Business Name	# of Stores	Responses To Survey			Notes
			Yes	No	No Reply	
Discount Stores	Target	7			1	
	K-Mart	3			3	
	Wal Mart	7			7	Currently collecting bags
	Stein Mart	1			1	
Department Stores	Kohl's	4		4		Currently collecting bags
	Sears	3			3	
	Carson's	1			1	
	Macy's	1		1		
	JC Penney	2	2			
Home Improvement Stores	Home Depot	8			8	
	Lowe's	2	2			
	Menards	4		4		
	Beesons Nursery	1			1	
	Chicago Brass	1		1		Not using plastic bags
Hardware Stores	ACE Hardware (Corporate)	10			10	Corporate developing program using oxo-degradable bags
	ACE Hardware (Waukegan)	1	X			Dropped out after unsuccessful in coordinating collection
	ACE Hardware (Zion)	1		1		
	True Value Hardware	8			8	
	Do it Best Hardware	4			4	
Electronics Stores	Best Buy	3			3	
	Circuit City	3			3	
Office Supply Stores	Staples	4		4		Working on a national collection program
	Office Max	4			4	
	Office Depot	5		5		
Book Stores	Borders Books	3			3	
	Barnes & Noble	4	X			Dropped out due to use of degradable bags
Drug Stores	Walgreens	36	36			
	CVS Pharmacy	10	10			
Grocery Stores	Butera Market	1	1			
	Dominick's	9			9	Currently collecting bags
	Jewle-Osco	16	16			Currently collecting bags
	Sunset Foods	3	3			Currently collecting bags
	Whole Foods	1			1	Currently collecting bags
	Pigley Wiggly	3	3			Had previously been collecting plastic bags
	Garden Fresh Market	2			2	
	Val's Market	1	X			Dropped out after unsuccessful in coordinating collection
	Waterstone Market	1			1	
	Franklin's Foods	1			1	
	Super Fresh Market	1			1	
	Fresh Market	2			2	
	Harbor Foods	1	X			Dropped out after unsuccessful in coordinating collection
	Trader Joe's	2			2	
	Lewis Market	2			2	
Auto Parts Stores	Pep Boys	2			2	
	Auto Zone	8			8	
	Murray's Discount Auto	3			3	
Sporting Goods	Bass Pro Shop	1	X			Dropped out after unsuccessful in coordinating collection
	Dick's Sporting Goods	1			1	
	Erehwon	1	X			Dropped out after unsuccessful in coordinating collection
Pet Stores	Pet Smart	3	3			
	Pet Supplies Plus	3		3		
	Petco	4			4	
	Total number of stores	213	76	23	99	



GENERAL ASSEMBLY
STATE OF ILLINOIS

Mr. John Cortesi
Sunset Foods Mart, Inc.
777 Central Ave
Highland Park, IL 60035

Dear Mr. Cortesi,

As a member of the Illinois Plastic Bag Recycling Task Force, we would like to thank you for your participation and assistance in the Lake County Recycling Pilot Program. Your cooperation will aid in the future development of successful voluntary at-store plastic bag recycling programs in Illinois.

As you may know, on January 1, 2008, the Illinois General Assembly enacted the Plastic Bag Recycling Act (P.A. 095-0268) which created the Task Force charged with developing and implementing this pilot program. At the end of the pilot, the Task Force will submit a report to the General Assembly that will detail the cost, benefits and challenges of implementing at-store plastic bag recycling programs.

In the coming weeks, the Task Force will be issuing a press release and hosting a media event to publicize the creation and progress of the pilot program. This program could not exist without your company's voluntary participation, and the hard work of your local store management and employees. Your participation is appreciated and will be recognized throughout the county. As representatives of the residents of Lake County we would again like to thank you for your time, energy, and efforts dedicated to this program.

Sincerely,

Senator Terry Link
30th District

Representative Kathy Ryg
59th District

Representative Sandy Cole
62nd District

cc: Sunset Foods Mart, Inc. Highland Park
Sunset Foods Mart, Inc. Lake Forest
Sunset Foods Mart, Inc. Libertyville

MEDIA ADVISORY

For Immediate Release

**NEW PLASTIC BAG RECYCLING PROGRAM
LAUNCHED FOR LAKE COUNTY**

Who: Lake County Plastic Bag Recycling Task Force

What: Press Conference

Where: Sunset Foods
1451 Peterson Rd., Libertyville, Illinois

When: Monday, July 20, 2009
10:00 - 10:30 a.m.

Please be advised that the Task Force will hold a brief press conference announcing the program, its participants, and detailing the benefits to the residents of Lake County.

CONFIRMED LIST OF SPEAKERS:

- Senator Terry Link – Illinois General Assembly, Task Force Member
- Representative Kathy Ryg – Illinois General Assembly, Task Force Member
- Representative Sandy Cole – Illinois General Assembly, Task Force Member
- Ann B. Maine – Lake County Board Member, Task Force Member
- Dago Aguirre – Sunset Foods Mart, Inc., Task Force Member
- Keith Christman – American Chemistry Council's Plastics Division (ACC)
- Peter Adrian – Solid Waste Agency of Lake County (SWALCO), Task Force Member
- Tanya Triche – Illinois Retail Merchants Association (IRMA), Task Force Member

PARTICIPATING LAKE COUNTY RETAILERS:

- Butera Market
- CVS/pharmacy
- JC Penney
- Jewel-Osco
- Lowe's
- PetSmart
- Piggly Wiggly
- Sunset Foods
- Walgreens

Reporters and photographers are welcome and encouraged to attend. For more information, or to receive a media kit, contact Wil Christensen (office): 847.336.9340 x 5, or email jchristensen@swalco.org.

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Contact: Wil Christensen
Office/Cell Phone: (847) 336-9340 x5 (435) 901-1641
Email: jchristensen@swalco.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**RECYCLING: LAKE COUNTY RESIDENTS HAVE IT IN THE BAG
WITH NEW PROGRAM**

Illinois Task Force brings together retailers, legislators, plastics industry, recyclers and environmental groups to develop voluntary plastic bag recycling pilot program for residents of Lake County

July 20, 2009 - The Lake County Plastic Bag Recycling Task Force, a group formed by the Illinois General Assembly to develop a plastic bag recycling program, announced the beginning of a six-month pilot program that will enable Lake County residents to recycle plastic bags and wraps at local stores.

The Task Force solicited the ideas of retailers, legislators, recyclers and environmental groups to institute a program that was acceptable to retailers in a tough economy and that also would give Lake County residents an opportunity to recycle their plastic bags with ease. The Task Force solicited the assistance of the American Chemistry Council's Plastic Division and received technical assistance, sponsorship funding for recycling bins and signage, educational materials, an intern to monitor the program and promotional tools to enhance recycling efforts.

State Representative Kathy Ryg (D-Vernon Hills) noted that, "Due to a growing concern over the amount of recyclable product being thrown into our landfills, the General Assembly began looking for ways to encourage residents to increase the amount of material they recycle. The data we collect from this program will allow us to explore the challenges and successes experienced by retailers that recycle plastic bags." Fellow Task Force member and Lake County Board member Ann Maine agrees, "Ideally, we'd like consumers to use alternatives to plastic bags as much as possible. A growing number of people are bringing reusable bags with them. However, when there isn't an alternative, I think that finding a convenient way to recycle plastic bags will encourage consumers to use them wisely. This is a great opportunity for Lake County."

Although plastic bags make up less than one percent of the U.S. municipal waste stream, they have received much attention in the recycling debate. Many cities and states have mandated plastic bag recycling, including Chicago, New York, California and Rhode Island. "We are pleased to be part of this important effort to expand recycling opportunities for the residents of Lake County," said Steve Russell, Managing Director of the American Chemistry Council's Plastic Division. "Plastic bags and wraps are too valuable to waste and should be recycled. These materials can be given a new life as durable outdoor decking, fencing and railing, shopping carts, and, of course, new bags."

Pete Adrian, Recycling Coordinator for the Solid Waste Agency of Lake County and a Task Force member added that "SWALCO advocates the 4 R's (Reduce, Reuse, Recycle, and Remanufacture/Rebuy). We want Lake County residents to actively strive to reduce the number of plastic bags that they carry away from the store by reusing their old bags or using durable reusable bags. We also want them to consistently return their old plastic bags and plastic wraps to participating stores to be recycled into new bags or other products."

Residents will be able to drop off their clean plastic bags and plastic wraps at the following participating stores: Butera Market, CVS/pharmacy, JC Penney, Jewel-Osco, Lowe's, PetSmart, Piggly Wiggly, Sunset Foods, and Walgreens.

The following plastics can be recycled at participating retail locations throughout Lake County: Grocery, newspaper, dry cleaning, bread and produce bags, toilet paper, napkin and paper towel wraps, furniture wrap, electronic wrap, plastic retail bags (hard plastic and string handles removed), zip-lock bags (hard closers removed), other sandwich or storage bags, cereal box liners, Tyvek (no glue, labels, other material), diaper wrap (packaging), plastic shipping envelopes (no labels), case wrap (e.g., snacks, water bottles), and all empty, clean and dry bags labeled #2 or #4.

For more information on the Task Force and the pilot program, please contact the Solid Waste Agency of Lake County at (847) 336-9340. To learn more about plastic bag recycling, please visit www.plasticbagrecycling.org and www.swalco.org.

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Lake Co. retailers making recycling easier

By Russell Lissau | Daily Herald Staff

Published: 7/20/2009 11:48 AM | Updated: 7/20/2009 2:23 PM

Recycling unwanted plastic bags will be easier for customers at about 70 supermarkets, drugstores and other retailers in Lake County under a newly launched pilot program, officials announced Monday.

Sunset Foods, Walgreens, Jewel-Osco and Lowe's are among the local companies that will put special containers near their front doors for customers to deposit plastic bags. Collected bags will be weighed as part of a study and then recycled so they don't simply end up as garbage in area landfills, officials said.

The program is the work of the Lake County Plastic Bag Recycling Task Force, a group of state and local politicians, retail-industry representatives and others who hope their efforts will expand across Illinois.

"The rest of the state should now step forward and make this a mandate," said state Sen. Terry Link, a Waukegan Democrat and member of the task force.

The group announced the program with a news conference at the Sunset Foods store in Libertyville. Standing before a specially arranged display of bleaches, paper towels, cups and other products with green or environmentally friendly labels, Link and other task force members proclaimed the need for people - and stores - to recycle plastic shopping bags, wrappers and similar products.

They also promoted the cloth reusable shopping bags that are available for purchase at many area supermarkets and other stores.

"You can never have too many of these," said Lake County Board member Ann B. Maine, a Lincolnshire Republican who's on the task force and has prominently fought to protect the environment.

Such bags have helped reduce the use of plastic shopping bags at Sunset by 24 percent over the last three years, said Thaddeus J. Tazoli, the chain's vice president of marketing.

Butera Market, CVS/pharmacy, JCPenney, PetSmart and Piggly Wiggly stores in the county also are participating in the program, which began in June and will last until the end of the year.

The bags collected by the stores will be weighed to help show their impact on the environment, officials said. The stores' totals will be included in a report task force members hope to bring to the General Assembly for further action.

Of course, many retailers - both large chains and independent stores - aren't taking part. State Rep. Kathy Ryg, another task force member, isn't discouraged.

"As always, things will catch on," said Ryg, a Democrat from Vernon Hills.

Appendix 14

Samples of local and national print media coverage

Lake Co. retailers making recycling easier

VIEW

1 of 2



Grayslake resident Janice Marsh places plastic bags in a recycling bin at Sunset Foods in Libertyville Monday after a press conference on the new plastic bag recycling program launched in Lake County.

Gilbert R. Boucher II | Staff Photographer

Lake Co. retailers making recycling easier

VIEW

2 of 2



Lake County Board Member Ann B. Maine holds up a reusable shopping bag as she discusses recycling during a press conference on the new plastic bag recycling program launched in Lake County Monday at Sunset Foods in Libertyville.



Plastic static

County makes push for reusable bags

Comments

July 21, 2009

By FRANK ABDERHOLDEN fabderholden@scn1.com

Lake County rolled out a pilot program Monday that will expand plastic bag recycling.

There also is a push to convince consumers to use reusable cloth bags.

"It really started out as a litter issue," said Peter Adrian, recycling coordinator for the Solid Waste Agency of Lake County, a technical adviser to municipalities of the county's population. The agency also runs household hazardous waste drop-offs and electronics recycling.

A county inspector came to one of their meetings and asked if there was anything they could do about the plastic bags blowing all over the landfill and snagging fences.

"We want Lake County residents to strive to reduce the number of plastic bags they use" by reusing the bags or using cloth ones, he said.

"We also want them to consistently return their old plastic bags and plastic wraps to participating stores to be recycled into new bags or other products," he said.

State Sen. Terry Link, D-Waukegan, said they originally wanted to mandate plastic bag recycling two years ago, but they ran into static. "We did the initiative because we knew they would be cooperative," he said.

"The rest of the state needs to step forward," Link said.

State Rep. Kathy Ryg, D-Vernon Hills, echoed the theme of avoiding the use of plastic bags by using reusable bags. "However, when there isn't an alternative convenient way to recycle plastic bags will encourage consumers to use them wisely," she said.

A long-time advocate of reusable bags, Lake County Board member Ann Maine recalled how she started using them 20 years ago. She keeps five bags in her husband's car. "You can never have too many of these," she said.

"It's important we do this," she said. "There's many more items that can be recycled. This shows Lake County cares for their environment," Maine said.

The news conference was held at Sunset Foods in Libertyville, where Thaddeus Tazioli, vice president of marketing for the company, said Sunset has sold bags for 99 cents and has given a lot away, too.

"We've had a 24 percent decline in plastic bag use the last three years and an 18 percent reduction in paper bag usage," he said.

Keith Christman, spokesman for The American Chemistry Council's Plastics Division, said the petroleum used to make plastic bags is too valuable to waste. Pounds of plastic was recycled nationwide in 2007, and the recycling rate grew 27 percent from 2005 to 2007.

Christman said the key is using products made from the recycled plastic. The four major bag manufacturers have said they will make bags with 40 percent recycled plastic by 2015. Twenty-five percent of that will come from post consumer material.

"That will reduce greenhouse emissions, conserve enough energy to run 200,000 homes and reduce waste by 300 million pounds per year," he said.

Daily Herald

Big Picture - Local Focus

Think green and bag the bag

Daily Herald Editorial Board

Published: 7/22/2009 12:01 AM

Going to the grocery store for milk and eggs? Reject the bag.

Or the hardware store for a box of screws and a couple switch plates? Or the video store to rent a new release? Reject the bag.

If you can carry your purchase in one hand, stop the automatic practice of having a clerk stick it in a plastic bag that will remain on this planet far longer than you will.

Plastic bags are a scourge. They end up in giant fish-choking cells in the oceans, they clutter the beautiful vistas of Africa. And, of course, they're filling up landfills everywhere.

A simple convenience has become a great inconvenience.

A consortium of local and state politicians and people from the retail industry knows what a problem plastic bags are. And it is doing something about it.

The Lake County Plastic Bag Recycling Task Force hopes that its efforts will catch on and spread across the state.

Roughly 70 grocery stores, drugstores and other retailers in Lake County are participating in a six-month pilot program set up by the task force to encourage customers to recycle plastic bags - and use fewer of them in the first place.

Jewel-Osco, Lowe's, Sunset Foods, Walgreens, Butera, CVS, JCPenney, PetSmart and Piggly Wiggly are among the companies that will put a special container near their front doors to collect used plastic bags.

The experiment is to last from June through the end of the year, with collections being weighed to gauge the effect on the environment. The idea is to present evidence that it's working to the state legislature in the hopes of growing the program.

"The rest of the state should now step forward and make this a mandate," said state Sen. Terry Link of Waukegan, a member of the task force.

Depending on their composition, plastics can be used in the manufacture of outdoor furniture and decking, clothing and more.

Besides encouraging recycling, the task force is pushing the use of reusable cloth bags - an even better idea.

A vice president at Sunset Foods said that the use of reusable bags in its stores has resulted in a 24 percent drop in plastic bag consumption over the last three years. Other stores, like Woodman's, sell their own cloth bags.

It makes good business sense for stores to do so: They make money on the cloth bags, save money on buying plastic bags. And they appeal to eco-minded shoppers.

The whole idea of recycling these plastic bags is a no-brainer and should be commonplace in the suburbs.

Everyone has a bag of bags in a closet, right? Start with that.

WASTE & RECYCLING NEWS

www.wasterecyclingnews.com

Ill. kicks off pilot program to recycle plastic bags, wraps

July 22 -- Lake County, Ill., is commencing a six-month pilot program that will enable residents to recycle plastic bags and wraps at local stores.

The Lake County Plastic Bag Recycling Task Force, formed by the Illinois General Assembly, developed the program with retailers, legislators, recyclers and environmental groups. Local stores will have specially designated bins for shoppers to drop off clean grocery, retail, bread, newspaper and produce bags, as well as toilet paper, napkin, furniture and electronic plastic wrap and dry cleaning film, zip-top bags with the hard closures removed, sandwich bags, Tyvek, cereal box liners and plastic shipping envelopes.

The task force will collect data on the program to determine whether to expand the program.

"The data we collect from this program will allow us to explore the challenges and success experienced by retailers that recycle plastic bags," said state Rep. Kathy Ryg, D-Vernon Hills, Ill.

Contact Waste & Recycling News reporter Joe Truini at 330-865-6166 or jtruini@crain.com

Appendix 14

Samples of local and national print media coverage

Lake County unveils pilot recycling program

(<http://www.pioneerlocal.com/highlandpark/news/1677820.lake-county-recycling-072309-s1.article>)

July 23, 2009

By **JOHN ROSZKOWSKI** jroszkowski@pioneerlocal.com

Those used plastic grocery or shopping bags need no longer to end up in the landfill or as litter blowing in the wind, thanks to a new pilot program that's been started in Lake County.

A press conference was held Monday at Sunset Foods in Libertyville to unveil a new Plastic Bag Recycling Program in Lake County. The six-month pilot program will allow local residents to recycle plastic bags at many local retail and grocery stores. Participating businesses will have plastic bag recycling bins in their businesses. Participating retailers include Sunset Foods, Butera Market, CVS Pharmacy, JC Penney, Jewel-Osco, Lowe's, Pet Smart, Piggy Wiggly and Walgreens.

The pilot recycling program was part of a statewide recycling initiative sponsored by State Sen. Terry Link, D-30th, of Waukegan, in an effort to encourage retailers and consumers to recycle plastic bags.

"Hopefully, we can frame a bill to do this statewide in the next General Assembly," said Link. "Eventually, we'd like everybody to do it."

State Rep. Kathy Ryg, D-59th, of Vernon Hills, who was one of the House sponsors of the legislation, said the idea was initially proposed by the Solid Waste Agency of Lake County in 2006 because of concerns about plastic bags ending up in the landfill or blowing around in the wind and littering the trees and the environment.

'Good ideas'

"It's so exciting to know that Lake County is often the birthplace of many of these good ideas and new opportunities," she said.

Sunset Foods, which operates grocery stores in Libertyville, Highland Park, Lake Forest and Northbrook, has been offering plastic bag recycling to its customers for many years and it's been successful, according to Thaddeus Tazioli, vice president of marketing for Sunset Foods.

In 2008, he said Sunset Foods recycled 18,928 pounds of plastic bags. He said the bags are recycled and made into new plastic bags by a company in Indiana. In addition, he said the company sells reusable grocery bags and has seen a 24 percent decrease in the use of plastic bags at its stores in the last three years.

"One reusable bag can save over 1,000 plastic bags in the course of its lifetime," said Tazioli.

Keith Christman of the American Chemistry Council's Plastic Division said other states have initiated plastic bag recycling programs and it's having a positive impact on the environment.

Nationwide, he said about 830 million pounds of plastic bags and plastic film were recycled in 2007, and there was a 27 percent reduction in plastic bags going into the landfill between 2005 and 2007.

The pilot recycling program runs through November 2009, after which a Lake County Plastic Bag Recycling Task Force will compile findings of the program and make recommendations about possibly expanding the program statewide.

Samples of the materials included in the Plastic Bag Recycling Toolkit



STRATEGIES FOR PLASTIC BAG AND FILM RECOVERY

GROCERY & RETAIL AT-STORE DROP-OFFS OR PLASTIC FILM FROM BUSINESSES

1. Train employees to identify what films are recyclable:

Recycle plastic grocery and retail bags, stretch or pallet wrap, newspaper bags, or film that is labeled with #2 or #4.



AVOID food wrap (e.g. Saran Wrap) and any film that has had direct contact with food or any organic material.

2. Identify the estimated quantity of film generated per month—loose film averages 24 lbs/cu.yd. To access an online calculator tool to estimate amounts generated, go to www.plasticbagrecycling.org.

3. Once you determine the amount of film and bags your business generates, **ask your hauler if they accept loose film for recycling**—alone or with cardboard.

4. You will need to collect and compact film for pick up. Use clear #4 plastic bags and clear bins with bold signage to designate recycling. If your volume is high, it might make sense to invest in a baler and consider backhauling to a central distribution center. For assistance, contact 888-753-7485.



5. If you set out bins for customers to recycle bags, be sure to **include clear signage** at the bin opening so customers know that it's for recycling—not garbage.

6. Place recycling bins near main entrance for convenient customer access.

7. Assign a designated staff person to monitor recycling bins: empty bins regularly and remove contamination.

8. Plan how to consolidate material. Move material from customer drop off point to designated bins in the back of your business for storage. Make sure employees know storage bin is for recycling—not waste. (Employees often accidentally throw trash into bags of film that are left out for recycling.)

9. Store consolidated bags and film material in a clean, dry place.

10. Call or email for information about signage.



11. Keep employees informed on how the recycling program is going and how much film is being recycled. Congratulate them on their contributions to the program.

12. Re-educate employees annually and **ALWAYS** educate new employees.

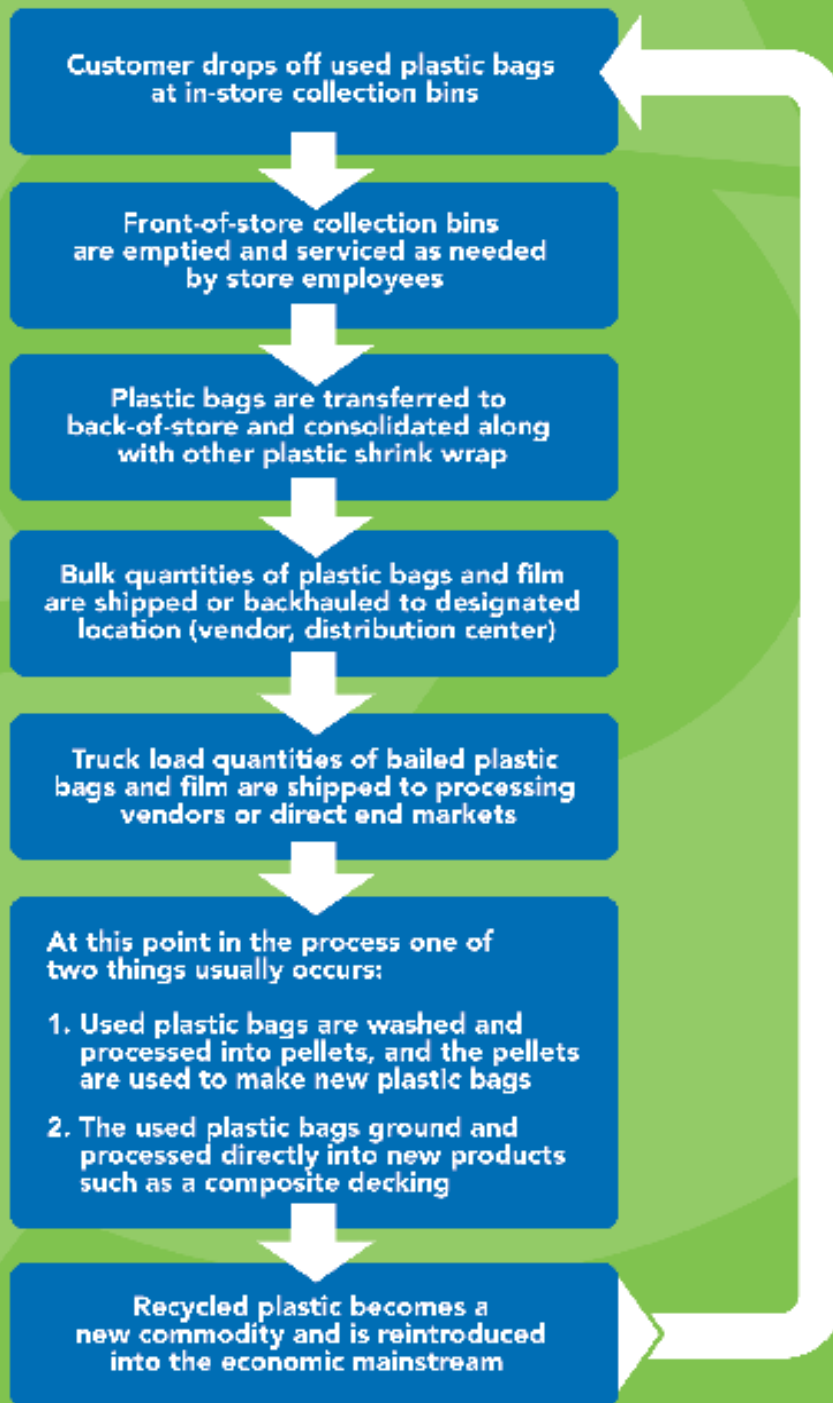
For additional information, including markets, film identification, and signage go to www.plasticbagrecycling.org.

For personal assistance, please call 888-753-7485 or email help@plasticbagrecycling.org



Recovering plastic bags and film is a great way to save money and help your community meet recycling goals.

ILLINOIS PLASTIC BAG RECYCLING TASK FORCE PLASTIC RECYCLING FLOW DIAGRAM





RECYCLE
PLASTIC BAGS
AT YOUR STORE

PLASTICS. TOO VALUABLE TO WASTE. RECYCLE.SM

Entrances and Exits

Consumers want to know where they can recycle their plastic bags. In addition to providing recycling bins in convenient locations, grocers and retailers can help through employee and consumer education. Posters and well-marked recycling bins near entrances remind customers to return bags for recycling.

- Conveniently locate garbage cans for consumers to place their trash
- Ideally, locate garbage cans so consumers reach it before reaching the plastic bag recycling bin to avoid contamination
- Use transparent bins and transparent bags to enable better quality control
- Place signage near the recycling bin opening to deter consumers from putting trash in the bin
- Avoid recycling bins that resemble garbage cans.

Window Posters (16" x 24")



Recycling Bin Facts Decal (7" x 5")

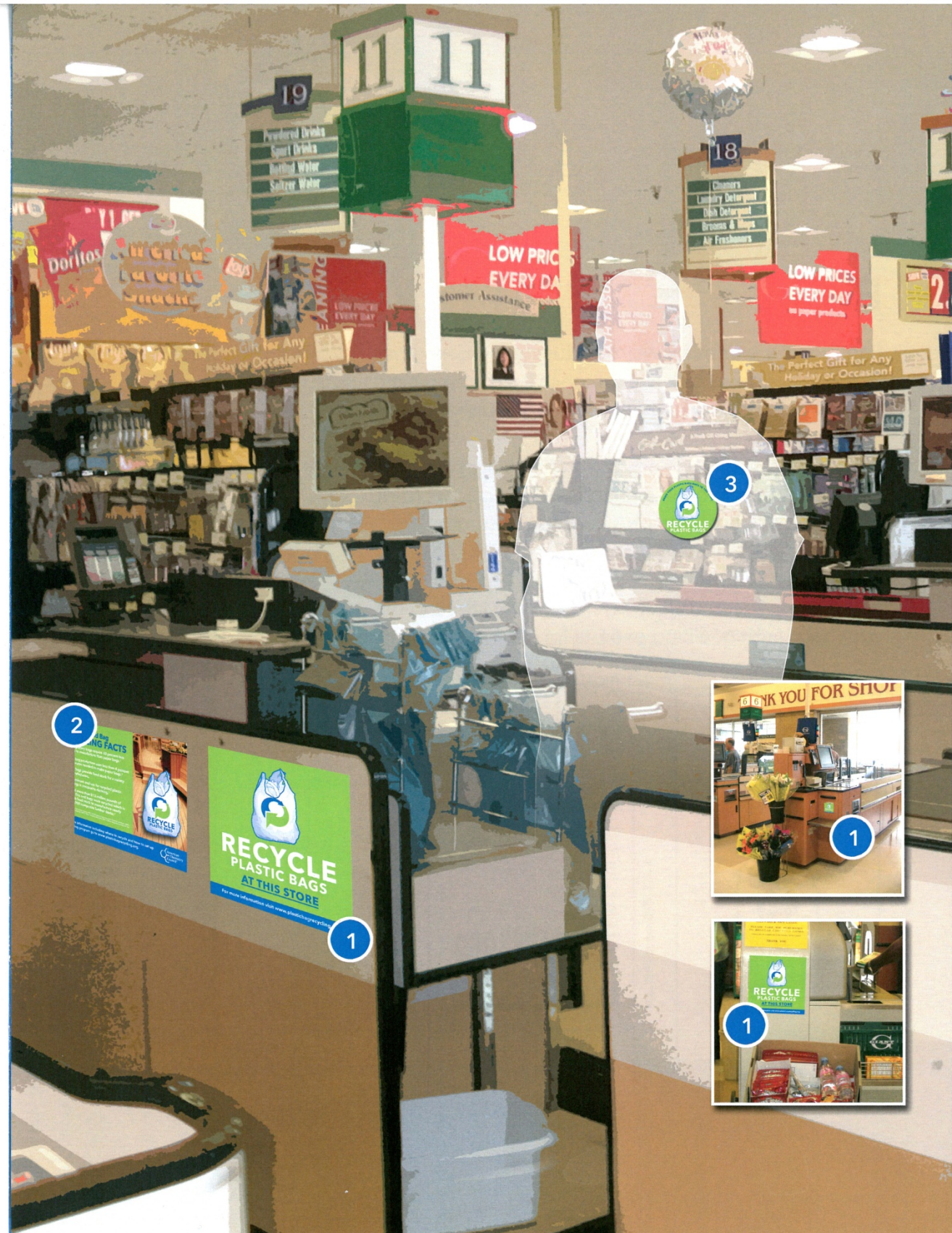


Recycling Bin

Recycling Bin Sign Stand (11" x 17")



Visit www.plasticbagrecycling.org for information on how to order materials





Bags

Bag marks are another way to educate the consumer. Consider using a mark like the ones below on plastic shopping bags. You can ask your bag supplier to help.

In California and New York City retailers are required to include recycling information and specific wording on plastic grocery bags provided to consumers. The bag marks displayed here comply with those requirements. Requirements may vary based on where your store is located so always check the labeling on your bags with qualified experts for your specific location.



Visit www.plasticbagrecycling.org for information on how to order materials

Appendix 15

Samples of the materials included in the Plastic Bag Recycling Toolkit



Checkout Stations

In addition to posters at entrances, simple decals near bag stands and buttons on cashiers and baggers serve to inform customers that plastic bags are recyclable at your store. Also consider a decal with recycling facts at the cashier stand.

Employee training is essential to the success of at store recycling programs. Make sure employees are aware of the recycling protocol. Have them point out the availability of store recycling bins and mention www.plasticbagrecycling.org.

Checkout Decal



2



Recycling Facts Decal (7" x 5")

Employee Button (3")



Visit www.plasticbagrecycling.org for information on how to order materials

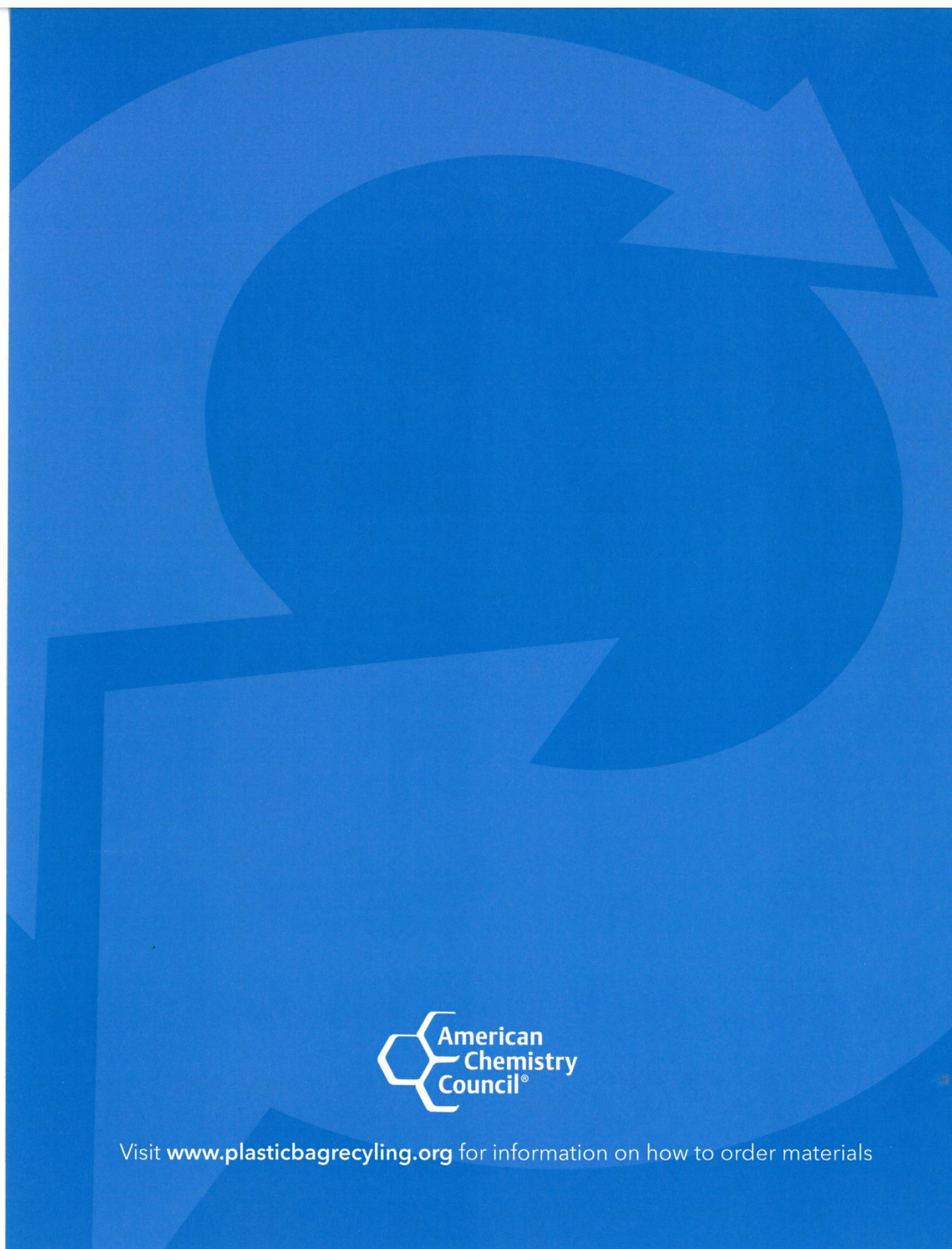
Appendix 15

Samples of the materials included in the Plastic Bag Recycling Toolkit



Appendix 15

Samples of the materials included in the Plastic Bag Recycling Toolkit



Appendix 16
Sample of customer survey used at stores

Tell us what you know about recycling plastic bags and film packaging and be entered into the \$100 Gift Card Raffle.

Did you know you could recycle plastic bags at this store? ☐ YES ☐ NO

How did you learn about plastic bag recycling in this store? Check all that apply

- | | | |
|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Signs/posters | <input type="checkbox"/> Company website | <input type="checkbox"/> Store circular ad |
| <input type="checkbox"/> TV advertisement | <input type="checkbox"/> Recycling bin by door | <input type="checkbox"/> Other |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Employee | <input type="checkbox"/> Advertisement on TV monitors in store | _____ |

Did you know all the sacks and wraps listed below could be recycled with plastics bags? ☐ YES ☐ NO

Please check the ones you did not know could be recycled with plastic bags.

- | | | |
|--|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> newspaper bags | <input type="checkbox"/> plastic bags around electronic products | <input type="checkbox"/> Tyvek(no glue, labels, other material) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> dry cleaning bags | <input type="checkbox"/> plastic retail bags | <input type="checkbox"/> diaper wrap (packaging) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> bread bags | <input type="checkbox"/> (hard plastic and string handles removed) | <input type="checkbox"/> plastic shipping envelopes (remove labels) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> produce bags | <input type="checkbox"/> grocery bag | <input type="checkbox"/> case wrap (e.g., snacks, water bottles) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> toilet paper, napkin, and paper towel wraps | <input type="checkbox"/> zip lock bags (remove hard components) | <input type="checkbox"/> all clean, dry bags labeled #2 or #4 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> furniture wrap | <input type="checkbox"/> cereal box liners | |

What do you think happens to plastic bags after they're collected for recycling? Check all that apply.

- | | | |
|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> thrown in the trash | <input type="checkbox"/> recycled into new bags | <input type="checkbox"/> exported and recycled into new products |
| <input type="checkbox"/> recycled into composite lumber | <input type="checkbox"/> recycled into containers | <input type="checkbox"/> exported and burned for fuel |

Do you recycle plastics bags? ☐ YES ☐ NO

If yes, what motivates you? _____

How did you learn that you could recycle plastic bags? _____

First Name: _____ **Last Name:** _____

Tel: _____ **Email:** _____

Address: _____ **City:** _____ **Zipcode:** _____

For Official Rules see posting on entry box or go to www.lakecountyll.gov/swalco/PlasticBagRecycling.htm

For more information visit www.plasticbagrecycling.org

piggly wiggly 

It's David's First Annual 49th Birthday Sale **49**

Jennie-O Self-Basting Turkey
 **THE LOWEST TURKEY PRICE IN TOWN IS AT PIGGLY WIGGLY!**
 Being in any other local supermarket's ad, and we will match the frozen turkey price with similar purchase requirements.
 11 to 23-lb. Size
 with Card and Separate \$25 or larger purchase.
LIMIT 1-Turkey TOTAL
 lb.

Butterball Turkeys . . .  **With Card and Separate \$25 Purchase** lb.

Boneless English-Cut Chuck Roast
 **\$1.99** lb.
 Certified Angus Beef

Boneless Pork Loin Roast
 **\$1.79** lb.
 Farmstead Fresh Preferred Natural

Food Club Sliced Bacon
 **\$1.99**
 1-lb. Package - Regular, Thick or Low Salt

Boneless Butterfly Pork Chops
 **\$1.99** lb.
 Farmstead Fresh Preferred Natural

Split Chicken Breasts
 **99¢** lb.
 Previously Frozen

California Fancy Navel Oranges
 **\$2.49** 4-lb. BAG
 CALIFORNIA ORANGES

Badger Gourmet Pk Ham
 **\$3.99** lb.
 Fresh from the Farm - Regular or Honey

McCormick Spices or Extracts
 **50% OFF**
 Select Varieties - Excludes Gourmet

Coke, Diet Coke or Sprite
 **4.11**
 12-Pack, 12-oz. Cans
 When you Buy 4

Maxwell House Ground Coffee
 **\$5.99**
 34.5 to 34.5-oz. - Yellow Original or Select

RECYCLE YOUR PLASTIC BAGS AT PIGGLY WIGGLY AND REGISTER TO WIN A \$100 STORE GIFT CARD
 **RECYCLE PLASTIC BAGS**

Miller High Life or High Life Light
 **\$11.99**
 30-Pack, 12-oz. Cans

Kellogg's Eggo Syrup, Kellogg's Cereal
Kellogg's Pop-Tarts, Kellogg's Fruit Snacks
Kellogg's Special K, Nutri Grain, Fiber Plus Bars, Rice Krispies Treats
Keebler Sandles, Fudge Shoppe, Chips Deluxe Cookies
Keebler Townhouse Crackers, Club Crackers, Zesta Saltines or Cheez-Its
 **\$1.25** each
 MIX OR MATCH When You Buy 6 Limit One Offer
 Sorry, No Rainchecks.
 Other than Multiples of 6 cost \$2.49 each

Prices in this ad good Wednesday, Nov. 11 thru Tuesday, Nov. 17, 2009. www.shopthepig.com
 page one - Antioch, Grayslake, Zion

Appendix 18
Piggly Wiggly stores weekly circular Gift Card Give Away ad

<u>Gift card survey results</u>	Number of surveys completed	Did customers know they could recycle plastic bags at the retail store?	How did customers learn about plastic bag recycling in the store?	Did customers know all the sacks and wraps listed could be recycled?	Customers thoughts regarding plastic bags after they're collected	Do customers recycle plastic bags?	How did customers learn about plastic bag recycling programs?
Butera Market Nov 20, 2009	15	100% of customers replied yes	Employee Recycle bin Website	53% of customers replied yes	Most common response – recycled into new bags	73% of customers replied yes	Bins in store Reusable bags Signs/posters
Piggly Wiggly Nov 13, 2009	51	85% of customers replied yes	Employee Recycle bin Signs/posters *Store circular Website	59% of customers replied yes	Most commons response – recycled into new bags	88% of customers replied yes	Community Bins in store Employee Internet Schools Signs/posters
Piggly Wiggly Nov 14, 2009	42	89% of customers replied yes	Employee Recycle bin Signs/posters *Store circular Website	71% of customers replied yes	Most common response – recycled into new containers	81% of customers replied yes	Community Bins in store Employee Internet Schools Signs/posters
Piggly Wiggly Nov 15, 2009	32	81% of customers replied yes	Employee Recycle bin Signs/posters *Store circular Website	46% of customers replied yes	Most common response – recycled into new containers	75% of customers replied yes	Community Bins in store Employee Internet Schools Signs/posters
Sunset Foods Nov 21, 2009	48	71% of customers replied yes	Employee Recycle bin Signs/posters Website	60% of customers replied yes	Most common response – recycled into composite lumber	85% of customers replied yes	Community Bins in store Employee Internet Newspaper Signs/posters
Sunset Foods Dec 5, 2009	28	86% of customers replied yes	Employee Recycle bin Signs/posters Website	71% of customers replied yes	Most common response – recycled into new bags	93% of customers replied yes	Bins in store Employee Internet Newspaper Signs/posters
Sunset Foods Dec 12, 2009	31	83% of customers replied yes	Employee Recycle bin Signs/posters Website	45 % of customers replied yes	Most common response – recycled into new bags	77% of customers replied yes	Bins in store Employee Newspaper Signs/posters
Total & Averages	247	On average 85% customers replied yes	Employee Recycle bin Signs/posters *Store circular Website	On average 58% of customers replied yes	Most common response for survey – recycled into new bags	On average 82% of customers replied yes	Community Bins in store Employee Internet Newspaper Schools Signs/posters

Appendix 19

Summary of monthly reported volume of plastic film recovered by participating retail businesses

Plastic Bag Recycling Program Metrics for participating retailers (lbs)										
Store Name	Store Location	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	Program Totals
Butera Market (1)	Lindenhurst	n/a	n/a	94.00	1,256.00	699.00	845.00	873.00	649.00	
	Monthly Total (lbs)	0.00	0.00	94.00	1,256.00	699.00	845.00	873.00	649.00	4,416.00
CVS/pharmacy (11)	Zion	n/a	n/a	4.00	n/a	23.25	27.25	31.50	n/a	
	Lindenhurst	n/a	n/a	8.50	8.50	8.50	8.50	8.50	n/a	
	Buffalo Grove #2788	n/a	6.50	8.00	14.40	28.50	43.00	43.00	n/a	
	Grayslake	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	4.00	4.00	4.00	n/a	
	Waukegan	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	0.00	n/a	
	Lake Forest	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	6.00	n/a	
	Highland Park	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	0.00	n/a	
	Mundelein #5774	n/a	4.75	5.50	5.50	8.00	18.25	24.75	n/a	
	Round Lake	n/a	n/a	3.00	3.00	5.25	8.25	17.75	n/a	
	Barrington	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	0.00	n/a	
	Waukegan #8761	n/a	4.00	4.00	4.00	4.00	22.00	44.50	n/a	
	Monthly Total (lbs)	0.00	15.25	33.00	35.40	81.50	131.25	174.00	0.00	552.90
JC Penney Department Store (2)	Gurnee	186.50	186.00	193.00	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	
	Vernon Hills	186.50	186.00	193.00	385.00	369 (44)	376 (45)	377 (45)	186.00	
	Monthly Total (lbs)	373.00	372.00	386.00	385(46.2)	369 (44)	376 (45)	377 (45)	186.00	1,317.00
Lowe's (2)	Gurnee #1829	325.00	125.00	100.00	n/a	225.00	175.00	175.00	n/a	
	Vernon Hills #2751	175.00	125.00	50.00	n/a	0.00	0.00	125.00	n/a	
	Monthly Total (lbs)	500.00	250.00	150.00	0.00	225.00	175.00	300.00	n/a	1,600.00
Piggly Wiggly (3)	Antioch	n/a	30.00	30.00	157.00	205.00	190.00	225.00	179.00	
	Grayslake	n/a	n/a	10.00	75.00	95.00	330.00	285.00	289.00	
	Zion	n/a	21.00	20.50	548.00	105.00	266.00	529.00	216.00	
	Monthly Total (lbs)	0.00	51.00	60.50	780.00	405.00	786.00	1,039.00	684.00	3,805.50
PetSmart (3)	Vernon Hills	n/a	n/a	n/a	10.00	n/a	5.00	21.75	n/a	
	Killdeer	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	7.00	n/a	
	Gurnee #436	n/a	8.00	5.75	n/a	7.25	n/a	n/a	n/a	
	Monthly Total (lbs)	0.00	8.00	5.75	10.00	7.25	5.00	28.75	n/a	64.75
Sunset Foods Mart, Inc. (3)	Highland Park	336.00	340.00	472.00	336.00	370.00	416.00	424.00	396.00	
	Lake Forest	328.00	350.00	318.00	369.00	336.00	378.00	390.00	366.00	
	Libertyville	88.00	90.00	170.00	196.00	250.00	296.00	313.00	324.00	
	Monthly Total (lbs)	752.00	780.00	960.00	901.00	956.00	1,090.00	1,127.00	1,086.00	7,652.00
Jewel-Osco (16)	Monthly Total (lbs)	33,711.48	34,197.49	24,094.47	25,086.84	24,524.96	32,806.62	30,009.70	30,009.70	234,441.26
Walgreens (39)	Monthly Total (lbs)	n/a	n/a	1,832.00	n/a	1,689.00	1,813.00	n/a	n/a	5,334.00
	Monthly Totals (lbs)	35,336.48	35,673.74	27,615.72	28,069.24	28,587.71	37,651.87	33,551.45	32,614.70	
	Total lbs for Pilot Program									259,183.41

A close-up, slightly blurred photograph of a white calculator with a light blue background. The calculator's keypad and display are visible, with the keypad being the primary focus in the lower half of the image.

Worksheet 2

Compare disposal cost to benefits of recovery

plasticbagrecycling.org

Comparing the cost and benefit of a recovery program

Use this worksheet to help you collect information needed for the online calculator or as a way to document the values you entered online to calculate your results.

Calculating your current disposal costs might help you in your decision to invest in a recovery program. Even though we encourage businesses to recycle for the environment, we understand that recycling efforts must make financial sense too. Step 2 allows you to calculate the cost of your plastic bag and/or plastic film disposal and then estimate the economic benefit of setting up a recovery program in the second section of the calculator.

Film Disposal Calculator	
Keep track of the values you enter into the online calculator here.	
Enter average monthly disposal: <small>Collect invoices from your waste hauler for the previous 3 months. Add the weights for each month together and divide by 3 to estimate your average monthly disposal.</small>	<input type="text"/> tons/month
Enter the percentage of film in your waste: <small>Observe your waste stream and estimate the average percent by volume of your waste that is film. Note: not all film is readily recyclable.</small>	<input type="text"/> %
Enter your disposal cost:	<input type="text"/> \$/ton
Enter your pull charge per container:	<input type="text"/> \$/pick up
Enter your disposal container size:	<input type="text"/> cubic yards

Estimated costs of plastic film disposal

Write in the values produced by the online calculator.

Monthly Disposal Weight Estimate (all materials):	<input type="text"/> tons /month
Cost of Waste Disposal (all materials):	<input type="text"/> /month
Cost of Plastic Film Disposal Only	<input type="text"/> /month

Note: If you generate significantly less than one ton (2000 lbs) of plastic film per month you should consider searching for a recycling company that can either pick up material or accepts dropped off material. If you generate more than one ton and have extra space for storage proceed to step 2 below to determine the potential economic benefit of setting up a plastic film recovery program.

Comparing the cost and benefit of a recovery program

Appendix 20

Next, calculate the benefits of a Recovery Program

Recovery Program Benefit Calculator	
Keep track of the values you enter into the online calculator here.	
Enter the local market value for baled film:	<input type="text"/> \$/lb.
<small>The best approach is to call some of the buyers listed in our recycling directory to find out what they're paying for truckload quantities (40,000 lbs). In order to get an accurate price you will need to make sure your material can meet their quality specifications and find out whether or not the price they quote is for material that's picked up or delivered by you to their location. If you want to test hypothetical numbers you might try 0.05 for a low end and 0.22 for the high end. Contact Moore Recycling Associates for additional market information.</small>	
Enter labor costs (including overhead):	<input type="text"/> \$/hr.
Enter average labor hours required per bale:	<input type="text"/> hrs.
Enter average bale weight:	<input type="text"/> lbs.
Cost of baling wire:	<input type="text"/> \$/lb.
Cost of collection bags:	<input type="text"/> lb.
<small>www.progetoivc.baga alliance.com for suppliers of plastic bags</small>	
Optional Section:	
If you don't have baling equipment, you might want to evaluate the estimated cost of equipment.	
Enter capital cost of baling equipment:	<input type="text"/> \$
Enter economic life of equipment:	<input type="text"/> months
Enter annual estimate of service costs:	<input type="text"/> % of capital cost
Enter interest rate:	<input type="text"/> % annual

Estimated benefits from your recovery program

Gross benefit per lb. of plastic film recovery: /month

Net benefit of film recovery (after marginal labor & supply costs): /month*

*Note: Estimate does not include the cost of storing and shipping the equipment.

Appendix 21
Cost Benefit Analysis data – Reverse Logistics Model

Determine Total Costs of Film Disposal	Amount	Units	Notes:
Average Loose Plastic Film Density	45.00	lbs/cubic yard	
Average Mixed Waste Density	150.00	lbs/cubic yard	
Current Disposal Profile:			
Total Monthly Disposal Weight Estimate (all materials)	7.50	tons/month	Use disposal invoices for previous 3 months to estimate average disposal.
Estimate Ave. Plastic Film Composition	4%	% film by vol.	Record visual observations to develop estimate of average film %.
Disposal Cost	45.00	\$/ton	
Container Pull Charge	400.00	\$/pick up	
Disposal Container Size	30.00	cubic yards	
Estimated Ave. Density of Disposed Material (all materials)	145.80	lbs/cubic yard	
Ave. Volume of Disposed Materials (all materials)	102.88	cubic yards	
Ave. Number of Monthly Container Pulls	3.43	pulls/month	
Total Cost of Waste Disposal (all materials)	1709.24	\$/month	
Plastic Film Generation Estimate and Disposal Costs:			
Film Plastic Weight	185.19	lbs/month	
Marginal Number of Pulls for Plastic Films Only	.14	pulls/month	
Total Cost of Film Disposal	59.04	\$/month	
Calculate the Gross Benefit of Plastic Film Recovery			
Avoided Costs of Disposal	.32	\$/lb	
Realizable Revenue for Baled Film Plastic	.10	\$/lb	Determine local market value of baled films.
Gross Benefit of Recovery	.42	\$/lb	
Calculate the Net Benefit of Plastic Film Recovery			
Variable Gross Benefit of Recovery	.42	\$/lb	
Recovery Costs			
Labor Costs (including overhead)	30.00	\$/hour	
Average Labor Hours required per bale	1.25	hours	
Average Bale Weight	900.00	lbs	
Average Labor per Pound of Film Recovered	.04	\$/lb	
Baling Wire and Related	.0018	\$/lb	
Clear Collection Bags	.0105	\$/lb	
Variable Net Benefit of Plastic Film Recovery (after marginal labor & supply costs)	.36	\$/lb	
	67.56	\$/month	
Equipment Investment Cost			
Capital Cost of Baling Equipment		\$	If adequate baling equipment does not already exist, it is necessary to evaluate purchase.
Economic Life of Equipment	120.00	months	The type of equipment and terms should be determined by volume generated and market.
Annual Estimate of Service Costs	0%	% of capital cost	
Interest Rate	0%	% annual	
Amortized Monthly Cost	.00	\$	
Service Cost	.00	\$/month	
Total Cost	.00	\$/month	
Net Benefit of Plastic Film Recovery (after equipment purchase)	67.56	\$/month	

Appendix 22

Summary table of Post Pilot Survey

Post Pilot Retailer Survey	Was the recycling program a positive experience?	Will you continue to collect and recycle plastic bags?	What are the dominant costs of the program?	What were the major issues involving the recycling program in your store?	What were your major benefits realized from recycling program?	Summary of experience and any recommendations
Butera Market No response	I think so.	Yes unless directed by corporate otherwise	Built in to daily operational procedures to maintain. Plastic bags, Sanitizer cleaners, and pest prevention sprays.	The wide variety of different plastics and even un appropriate filled bags being used as refuse receptacles.	The community seeing that we are participants to the Green Programs.	To get the community involved with their refuse companies to handle this type of program from their weekly pick ups.
CVS Pharmacy No response						
JC Penney	We have found recycling of plastic, hangers, office paper, and cardboard to be entirely worthwhile. Not many retailers have the same resources to assist the recycling effort as we do.	Absolutely.	For us, they are minimal. We already have trailers moving back and forth between the stores and Store Support Centers. There are some minimal labor expenses to load the recyclables onto and off the trailers as well as some labor to take the materials to different trailers for final disposition at the SSC's.	None for us – but anyone starting a recycling program <i>now</i> has a far easier task then when we started years ago.	Reduced hauling expenses because compacters are not filled as quickly. Reduced landfill expenses and reduced footprint in those landfills.	Would recommend that any retailer that has the ability to recycle plastic do so.
Jewel-Osco	Jewel-Osco established a plastic bag recycling program since 1989. It is part of the overall operation in which numerous items are recycled, including tires, batteries, hard plastic and plastic wrap, and other recyclable items.	Yes. It is part of the overall recycling operations.	Labor & transportation costs. Dedicated facility and staff personnel.	Developing a workable process and having a facility to conduct the work.	As a first mover in this issue, Jewel-Osco realized long ago that a recycling effort was needed to help impact the waste stream generated by the increased use of plastic bags. This effort was seen as a positive move by both customers and employees. Since it makes sense from an environmental point of view, the company has continued to maintain this program established over a decade ago.	N/A
Lowe's No Response						
Pet Smart	Yes, there were no issues.	Yes we will continue.	The service collecting the bags and house the data. Also, \$60.00 per month material costs.	None.	Didn't really hear of any.	We will most likely implement this in more Chicago stores.
Piggly Wiggly	Yes	Yes, it is a positive for our store in our customer's eyes -- it shows we care about our community's future.	The cost of baling and storing the plastic at our warehouse. Minimal since our evening clerks empty the bins while doing their regular cleaning duties--- I do not have access to the warehouse's costs. 2 recycle bins at aprx. \$30.00 each.	At store level we have no issues. We do not have to store much plastic since it goes out on any truck heading back to the warehouse.	The positive feed back from the customers and community knowing you are involved in recycling.	I believe it is a good program but government should never mandate as some merchants do not have a partner that is cost effective to run this program. Plus at times it costs more to recycle plastic than make new. In many cases it leaves a larger carbon foot print to recycle products than to produce new.
Walgreens	Yes	Yes	Bin and can liners @ \$50 per store. Considerable across chain; hard to separate for Lake County. Stock transfer and warehouse labor and bales most significant part.	Store Operational issues, e.g. keeping bin located in front of store or replace.	N/A	N/A
Sunset Foods	Sunset Foods has been collecting plastic bags from customers and sending them to a recycling plant for many years. Even though we knew we were collecting a lot of plastic bags, we never kept track of it. Now, after the pilot program, we realize how much plastic we actually help recycling and it is great.	Sunset Foods will continue running this program.	The biggest cost that we can see is the labor, which in our opinion is minimum, considering the benefit in our community. We estimate 30 minutes per location to empty the bin, replace the liner and load the plastic into the truck. The other costs are the plastic liners, which depends on the company's vendors, and the recycling bin, which in some cases could be provided by the recycler company.	The major challenges that a company could face are space and sanitation. Pests could be introduced in customer packages but could be managed with a good pest control program.	Getting involved with the community and helping keep a safe environment is one of our main goals and biggest benefit. The company is also working in other projects that along with the plastic bag recycling program will help build a cleaner environment.	It is very common to see retailers selling reusable bags but only a few are actually recycling plastic bags. Bringing more companies to join this effort will be one of the biggest challenges moving forward.

Appendix 23

List of regional buyers of post consumer plastic film

Adams Plastic
501 N. Homan Avenue
Chicago, IL 60624

Alan Josephsen Co
101 East Maple Ave.
Mundelein, IL 60060

AMG Recycling Inc
1018 Bette Lane
Glenview,, IL 60025

East-Terra Supply (export)
60 E Long Ridge Road
Terre Haute, IN 47802

Freshpak
16240 Port NW #300
Houston, TX 77041

Giran Corporation (export)
1712 Warbler Dr.
Naperville, IL 60565

Gulfstream
950 Peninsula Corporate Circle, Suite 3025
Boca Raton, FL 33487

Hilex Poly
101 East Carolina Avenue
Hartsville, SC 29550

Maine Plastics Inc.
1817 Kenosha Rd
Zion, IL 60099

Midwest Fiber, Inc
422 White Oak Rd
Normal, IL, IL

Parc Corporation
1415 enterprise drive
Romeoville, IL 60446

Plastic Recycling Solutions, Inc.(export, broker)
630 Hwy 10 N.
PO Box 6159
St. Cloud, MN 56304